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Before Leaving Administration, Katy Smith Abbott Looks Back

By NICK GARBER and ELIZABETH SAWYER
News Editors

President Laurie L. Patton announced in August that Katy Smith Abbott, vice president for student affairs and dean of the college, would step down from her position at the end of December to return full-time to her faculty position in the art history department.

Her resignation will bring an end to her long tenure in student life administration, which began in 2002 when she and her husband, Steve Abbott, were named co-heads of Ross Commons.

On Monday, Smith Abbott sat down with Elizabeth Sawyer and Nick Garber and discussed her work in the administration, the challenges she has faced, and why student life work has remained her central focus.

Middlebury Campus (MC): You attended many years of school, studying and learning how to teach art history. What compelled you to give that up, at least in part, to do administrative work? Did it feel like a sacrifice?

Katy Smith Abbott (KSA): When I first stepped into student life work, it was 2002, and I was teaching art history part-time at the college. My husband had just come through the tenure process a few years before that, and we were asked to serve as the heads of Ross Commons. That was the first step, toeing the water of student life work. And we believed in the commons system. We were people who always had students over for dinner anyway. So when Tim Spears, who was in something like [my current] role at the time, asked us if we would consider it, first we said, "You've got to be crazy!" Our children were like two and four at the time, we were like, "No way are we doing that publicly."

And then we thought about it and we said actually, it totally aligns with what we believe in, in terms of boundary crossing, in terms of blurring the boundaries between the classroom and intellectual life outside the classroom. That was the first step in. At that point it really felt like a complement to teaching, not as consuming as [my current] work.

We did that for six years, and then Tim [Spears] again asked if I would take on another administrative role, that was called associate dean of the college. And then from that I moved into being dean of students. I had a sabbatical before becoming dean of students, and while I was away in England on that sabbatical, Shirley Collado, who was the dean of the college at the time, called and said would you come back as dean of students.

So I guess it's a long rambling way of saying it's been incremental. And the real answer to what would have compelled me to do it, the first step, was the commons head role. It felt like such a wonderful complement to the way Steve and I were already thinking about teaching and the way we loved being with students. And when we stepped into that, we looked at each other and went, "This is going to be the end of our innocence as faculty members. We know we're getting closer in to students' experience outside of the classroom in all the glory and all the grit," and we said okay, are we ready for this?

And it was true. When you're really engaging students and are present for students in whatever experiences they're having, you're not just sitting with the beautiful minds in the classroom and engaging at that level. It felt important, and teaching is of course tremendously important. But it just felt like a different way to connect. It felt like a different way to commit to this thing that I really believed in, which was thinking of students as whole people. They bring their whole selves to the college experience and I wanted to be part of that.

MC: Despite the connections you've cultivated with students, is there anything about the role of an administrator that automatically puts you at a distance from the perspective of students?

KSA: I think a couple things are true. I'll first tell you a story. When my son, who's now a junior in college, was on the college tour circuit, I went with him on the Minnesota trip, and we were on the Macalester [College] tour in a blinding snow storm. And they did this brilliant thing there, where they made the family members, mostly parents, go on one tour and the students went on a different tour, so you couldn't humiliate your kid by asking almost gunner questions like I wanted to ask.

So I went off with my tour guide, and of course I was the first one in line, and I said, "I would love to start with the question, 'What do you love most about Macalester?' " and she did not hesitate, and she said, "I love the close working relationship students have with the administration." And I thought I was going to fall over — I was so fascinated by that. And it was completely authentic. That's not an answer you're going to just come up with as a student, right?

Maybe that's not what I need Middlebury students to say is their favorite thing about Middlebury, but I thought, "How do we get closer to that? What would that look like?" I've sort of been haunted by it for the

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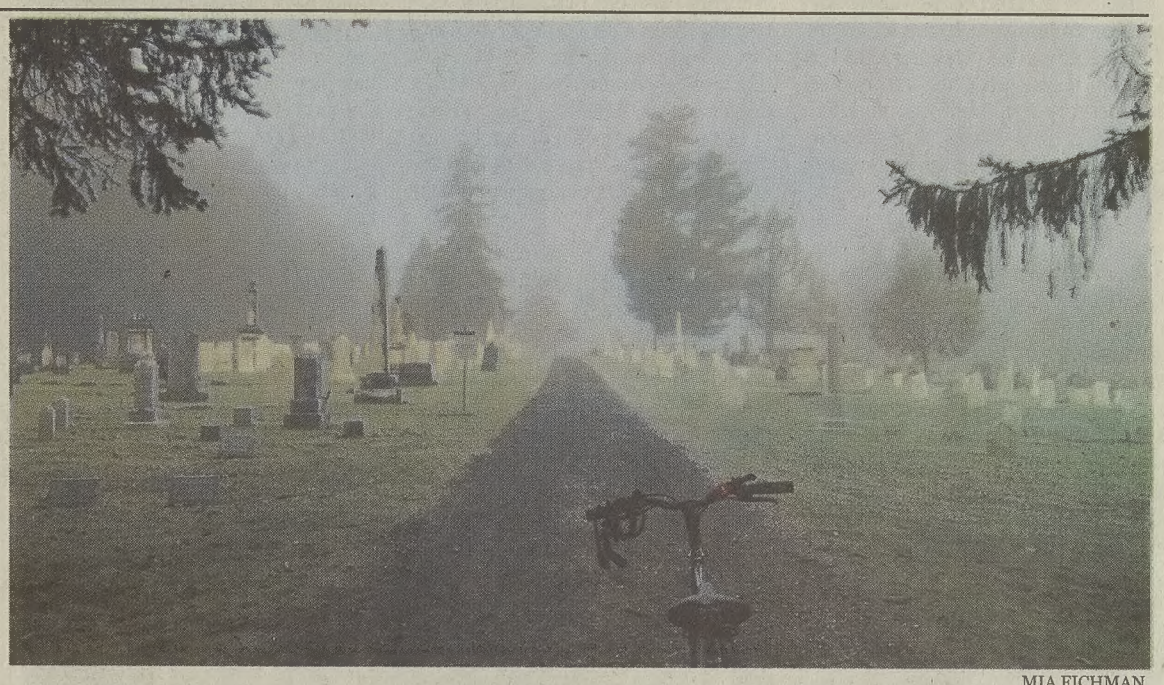

MIA FICHMAN

Fog descends on the cemetery across from the Mahaney Center for the Arts on Monday morning.

Inside Midd Football Players' Decision to Kneel During Anthem

By WILL DIGRAVIO
Managing Editor

It was not until "The Star-Spangled Banner" began to play that Ian Blow '19 decided to take a knee. Of course, he had thought about it before — a lot, ever since Colin Kaepernick first did so in August of last year.

After almost kneeling at the Middlebury football team's Oct. 7 game at Amherst, Blow, who is black, planned to protest the following week. Before doing so, he wanted first to share his plan with his teammates. However, in the midst of a hectic, midterm-filled week leading up to their Oct. 14 game against Williams, the chance to open up a conversation never came, and as he sat in the locker room prior to kickoff, Blow, a defensive end, decided to wait another week.

"I didn't go through the steps beforehand to be respectful of my teammates, so I decided I wasn't going to take a knee," Blow said in an interview with The Campus.

But as he stood on the sideline just before kickoff and the national anthem came over the loudspeakers, something changed. Blow caught sight of a banner promoting Green Dot, a program that trains members of the community in bystander intervention to help prevent instances of power-based personal violence. That day, Blow and his teammates were wearing green dots on their helmets to show support for the program. He said Green Dot has been incredibly important to him and, in that moment, the banner served as a reminder of the need to take action.

"In that situation, I thought, 'nobody is a bystander,'" he said. "You are either part of the solution, or you're not. I saw that Green Dot banner and I thought, 'I have the option here to either be part of the solution today, or not be part of the solution today.'"

After that realization, he got down on one knee, ignored his surroundings, and focused his eyes on the woman singing the anthem.

"Going in, my focus was on playing and winning the game, but for that moment I was also making that stand and I wasn't worried in that moment. I was sure of what I was doing as I did it," he said.

Blow was then joined by one of the team's running backs, Diego Meritus '19, who is also black. The two had been linking arms during the anthem throughout the season, and had previously discussed the possibility of taking a knee. Meritus did not respond to a request for comment by press time.

As the two players knelt on the sidelines, first-year running back Charlie Ferguson '21 stood beside Blow and placed a hand on his teammate's shoulder.

"Diego and Ian are standout guys. I have a great amount of respect for them both," Ferguson said. "When they took a knee I fully supported the statement they were making and wanted to show my support. In the moment I figured the best way for me to do this was [by putting] my hand on their shoulder."

From there, they took to the field and focused on football. After the game, Blow and Meritus discussed their decision with coach Bob Ritter, who, according to Blow, supported their right to express themselves in this way, but wished they had spoken to him prior to the game to let him know.

"I definitely agree with him there. The best way to have gone about it would have been to have a conversation first and then done the protest," Blow said. "I didn't apologize for kneeling. I admitted that I could have done it in a better way, but I did what I thought was right."

Earlier in the year, during the team's preseason, the coaching staff asked the players to gather in small groups and answer the question, "What do you think of when you listen to the national anthem?" Blow used that time to reflect.

"I feel incredibly proud to be a part of a nation that gives us so many opportunities and freedoms that we take for granted every single day. At the same time, I acknowledge that we also live in a flawed nation, where there is a lot of [racial] injustice," Blow said. "And that's why I felt sure I was doing the

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O'Keefe Promotes Himself in Uneventful Appearance

By NICK GARBER and ELAINE VELIE
News Editors

The controversial conservative activist James O'Keefe spoke on Thursday evening at the Courtyard Marriott hotel in Middlebury to a modest audience of college students and local residents.

Roughly 50 people, including about a dozen Middlebury students, were in attendance in the small event room in which O'Keefe delivered his lecture, though close to half of the attendees appeared to be members of the media. A two-man private security force was present at the event, and two Middlebury police officers conducted a sweep of the room with a police dog shortly before the event began. Middlebury police chief Thomas Hanley said police made periodic check-ins as well.

Hanley said that while the event's organizers requested for two officers to be stationed there, the department only performed periodic safety checks.

"We declined the offer as we do not want our officers to be hired bodyguards," Hanley said. "We suggested they contract with private event security for that purpose. They still requested presence." The Marriott hotel management requested police presence as well.

Though his lecture was titled "Middlebury's Problem With Free Speech," O'Keefe only briefly mentioned the college during his appearance, which lasted for over an hour. Instead, his speech centered largely around his own career, and included defenses of the deceptive practices that have brought him criticism.

"[In] undercover work, you deceive in order not to be deceived," O'Keefe said. "We're using deception here in order to get these people to open up to us."

While O'Keefe was speaking generally, his argument seemed also to rebut the scrutiny that he and his organization, Project Veritas, have recently faced for their tactics. Last week, the Washington Post reported that a Project Veritas employee had approached the newspaper falsely claiming to have been impregnated as a teenager by Roy Moore, the Republican nominee for Alabama's vacant Senate seat.

The operation was an apparent attempt to discredit the Post's coverage of other allegations against Moore, who has been accused by several women of having pursued them when they were teenagers and he was in his 30s. O'Keefe's failed effort was met with widespread disapproval, including from the conservative National Review and Washington Examiner.

Some mystery still surrounds the events that brought O'Keefe to Middlebury. A group calling itself The Preservation Society sent two emails to all faculty, staff and students last Tuesday and Wednesday, promoting O'Keefe's appearance and lamenting the state of free speech on campus. The

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Patton Announces New Position to Lead Inclusivity Training

By KYLE NAUGHTON
News Editor

As part of the college's efforts to improve "cultural competency and racial awareness" on campus, President Laurie L. Patton has announced the establishment of a new position, entitled director of diversity and inclusion education and training.

Patton announced the position in a college-wide email sent to students, faculty, and staff on Monday. This individual will be responsible for both evaluating Middlebury's current level of inclusivity competency and creating educational training programs tailored to campus community members.

The new position follows an ongoing conversation regarding diversity and racial sensitivity at Middlebury, which took center stage during the town hall event held at Mead Chapel on Nov. 8. Specifically, the administration's decision comes in light of requests made by students and faculty alike to incorporate educational facilitators within additional skill-building diversity programs.

The administration hopes this new faculty position will increase racial awareness and cultural sensitivity throughout the college. The new director is thus expected to highlight the complexities underlying micro-aggressions, racial bias, and de-escalation as a means to prevent instances of misunderstanding moving forward.

Establishing diversity expertise within the administration will also provide additional flexibility regarding the nature and frequency of educational sessions. Middlebury will be equipped to both bypass outside organizational dependence and alter its training programs over time to maximize their effectiveness. This system also affords more opportunities for community feedback to actively shape the direction of future diversity initiatives.

The administration intends to begin recruiting for the position during early 2018, following the formation of a search committee composed of students, staff and faculty members. Candidate qualifications will range from experience in racial and social justice education to an understanding of restorative communal practices.

Students are encouraged to provide input both during the hiring process and once the diversity education programs begin.

EMMA STAPLETON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

A special guest watches women's hockey play during an overtime loss to Connecticut College on Satuday.

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Student Raises Funds for Dining Staff Bonuses

By RACHEL HOROWITZ-BENOIT
Contributing Writer

Hoping to improve the holiday experience for dining hall staff members, Joslyn Sullivan '19.5 has created a GoFundMe page to raise funds for holiday bonuses. "The GoFundMe seemed like a really tangible thing that students could do to show that they appreciate the dining hall staff," Sullivan said.

As of December 4, the page had received 46 donations for a total of $734. Sullivan is hoping that with increased knowledge about the project, the donations will increase. The stated goal is $3,500.

"People just really need an outlet to show that they care," Sullivan said, citing the individual efforts of residential halls to give holiday bonuses to their custodial staff. "That shows that students really do care and want to do that but might not think of it themselves."

"That's also one of the biggest ways that I've been able to get donations, is just going up to my friends and looking them in the eyes and being like, 'Please donate to this,' " Sullivan said. Whether or not they are able to donate, Sullivan encourages students to post the link to their Facebook pages and ask friends to donate.

Although Sullivan did not start the project with specific plans to continue it in future years, she thinks it is a possibility.

Sullivan believes the project is especially important now considering recent changes to the dining system that the staff has had to keep up with. She was also inspired by an op-ed by Nia Robinson '19 in the Nov. 2 issue of The Campus, titled "Put That Thing Back Where It Came From (Or So Help Me)," which criticized the way students treat Middlebury staff.

Sullivan expressed appreciation for the diverse support she has received. "I have had a couple of friends that go to different schools that visit here enough that they were like, 'I love those people, I love those dining halls, I'm gonna donate,' and that was really special to hear."

Still, she emphasizes that this is a great opportunity for Middlebury students specifically to show appreciation. "I also kind of wanted it to be on the students who were interacting with these people every day." She hopes her efforts will make it possible for students to give back this holiday season.

To donate, visit go/welovedining.

Modest Turnout at O'Keefe Speech

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group's membership and origins are still unclear. Bill Burger, the college's spokesman, said in an all-student email last Tuesday that no such group has approached the college to request recognition as a student organization.

However, in the Wednesday email, the group attempted to refute speculation that it is not composed of Middlebury students.

"Our group members, a handful of Middlebury students, came together and formed The Preservation Society out of a legitimate fear of punishment and/or sanctions from the University, or even violent retaliation from other students and faculty on campus," the email read.

Samuel Zimmer '20, who introduced O'Keefe at the event, hinted further at the group's composition, although he is not himself a member. "A friend of mine, Bronson, a public member of The Preservation Society, approached me and asked if I could introduce Mr. O'Keefe tonight," Zimmer said. "I'm deeply disturbed to hear from him that the other members of his group are too afraid to let their membership be known publicly to the school community."

Zimmer was referring to Bronson Leyva '18. In an email to The Campus, Leyva stated that he left The Preservation Society within the past week, but that multiple members remain in the group anonymously.

Responding to a reporter's question at the event, O'Keefe said he had received "a few thousand dollars" from the Leadership Institute, a conservative organization based in Virginia, to speak in Middlebury.

Despite recent criticism, O'Keefe spoke defiantly.

"We are taking on the entire mainstream media, we have taken on the mainstream media for eight years," he said. "We're holding the most powerful people in the world accountable despite almost every possible economic and political force working against us."

Will Frazier '19, who watched O'Keefe's speech along with Emma Helper '19, said they had chosen to attend out of curiosity, not admiration.

"We attended because he's essentially an embarrassment to journalism and was recently exposed once again, and we wanted to see how he could possibly defend his work," Frazier said.

Frazier said that O'Keefe, while articulate, was ultimately unable to defend his tactics convincingly.

"We both think he spoke really well and was surprisingly eloquent in his defense of his arguments," Frazier said. "But there were clearly many flaws in his defense and it immediately broke down upon examination."

Smith Abbott Reflects on Career, Return to Teaching

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MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

past three years. I haven't followed up with colleagues there about what makes that magic, but it must have something to do with a determined approach, a conscious approach, to thinking collaboratively about the good of the institution.

Not just, "What do we need right now in this moment?" Sometimes there is a tension between the urgency students feel, rightly, because they're only here for four years, and the administration's long view that says we're the shepherds for the long-term good of the institution. I think it can feel as though that's a stark dichotomy, instead of really being pieces of a whole. They both matter, they are the same thing, but we've chosen to break them apart like puzzle pieces. I think when we get to these places of division or saying "Old Chapel" or "all students," we've decided that we're not really all after the same thing, which is that Middlebury feels like a place where every student can flourish and where we are mindful of the things that aren't working right now.

"We know we're getting closer in to students' experience outside of the classroom in all the glory and all the grit."

I do think there's a way in which it's "helpful." Things persist because they serve us well in some regard. So for students to feel kept out of decision-making or to say "Old Chapel" or "the administration," that serves something. It makes something somebody else's fault. Which is not to say we don't have responsibility. And in the same way, saying, "Well, these are administrative decisions, not student decisions," because we have the long-term interests of the institutions at heart, serves something as well.

I think there's rich potential in reframing that narrative and rewriting it in a way that starts with "What if?" What if we did this differently? What if we started from a different point or with different assumptions in mind, in my utopian world?

MC: Speaking of long-term versus short-term perspectives: to us, Charles Murray is the biggest controversy we've been aware of over the past three years. But you've been in administrative roles for such a long time, what have some other challenges been that you've experienced and had to work through?

KSA: You're not alone in thinking that. I think a lot of us think that. That's a dramatic moment, a marker in the college's longer history and shorter history. People who were around during the Vietnam War will say that we had much bigger controversies or much bigger moments on campus or similarly impactful moments — maybe it's not that one is more dramatic than the others.

While I do not in any way mean that March 2 was second-most intense on my watch, I will say that for me, as hard as this is and as divided our campus feels at times — and sometimes all the time — the most difficult thing I've had to do is to be with a community in the wake of a student suicide. It's just unimaginably difficult. Well, not unimaginably — many of us were here for that.

That will stand out for me forever as something that certainly shaped my own approach to my work, my approach to working with the remarkable colleagues that I have had the opportunity to work with across student life, and to what it means to be with a campus in a place of crisis that's really disorienting in a different way than what we're dealing with now, which is also disorienting, but I think in a different perspective.

I think for me, these two moments are really different from each other. There are lots of individual student crises, and also moments of immense celebration with students that will stay with me as well. But in terms of other things in my own work that stand out as super difficult, those two are the places of weight and deep concern.

MC: In those really hard moments, how did your responsibilities as an administrator differ from what they would have been if you had been a faculty member?

KSA: Almost in every imaginable way. One of the realities of being an administrator is that, except in moments of crisis, you tend to be farther from students. And that's the single biggest difference and the thing I've missed the most — the very close connection you have with students on a daily basis when you're teaching.

I've taught one class a year the whole time since I've been an administrator, and a little bit more than that when I was a commons head, but in my commons, you have lots of students in your house all the time or you're at events. But the more I've moved into administrative work, the more distance there's been between me and regular interaction with students. That's probably been the thing I've missed the most.

When I announced my decision to go back to teaching, people asked me, "Are you leaving your administrative job because of Charles Murray?" I get it, the timing would make you want to ask that question. But the truth is that, if the moment we're in has had any impact on my decision to go back to teaching — and there's more than one impact — the reality is that last spring, when I was in really hard conversations with students, as hard as those conversations were, I thought, "This is what matters. This is what matters to me: being in these conversations with students."

It was a little bit of a lightbulb moment for me, of saying, "It's time. It's time to be back in a place where I can be more regularly connected to students." Hopefully not talking with quite the same intensity all the time, but I would say that's the biggest difference. You spend a lot of time in meetings, a lot of time on email, a lot of time doing strategic planning and problem-solving, and it's important and it's challenging and I've grown tremendously as a professional as a result of all that, but I went to graduate school so that I could teach. I enjoy scholarship, but my dream was to be regularly working with students. So that's the single biggest difference.

MC: Do you wish you'd known certain things coming into this job that would've helped you perform better?

KSA: I don't know the answer to that question, to be honest. There are a lot of people in my job who come from student affairs backgrounds, have PhDs in higher education administration and who are career student life professionals. I love meeting with those people. I have colleagues at other institutions whose wisdom I tap when I need it, which is often. So I think if I had that background there are probably some things I would've done or managed differently.

This is not at all to say that I haven't made mistakes, because I've made plenty. I think that one of the joys and privileges of doing the work with my unusual background in art history has been that I really depended upon the remarkable colleagues that I've had in student life, and they've been incredibly patient and gracious with me. I think it's meant that I've done a lot of on-the-job learning from 2002 — it's ongoing. Probably in places where it's felt uncomfortable, I've had to acknowledge my shortcomings and have some humility around where my gaps in knowledge are. I feel like the places where I could've really screwed up, I've been saved by the wisdom, support and collaboration of people here and elsewhere, like my colleagues at other institutions.

If I look back on the things I wish had gone differently, to be honest, it would've been about moving more slowly. It would've been about taking more time to listen before acting. It can sometimes feel like everything has to be decided in the moment, and like I said, there can be really urgent situations that present themselves, and when that happens, like any situation, your adrenaline surges, your problem-solving superhero cape gets on, and you think, "I got this!" Sometimes you have to act with that kind of alacrity, sometimes it is a life or death moment. But most of the time it's not.

I think if I could have cultivated a deep well of calm and patience around decision-making, some of the things that stay with me where I wish I had made a different decision or I wish I had slowed down. Maybe it's not even that I would have made a different decision. But I think there is a way in which most of the work that's done in my realm is aided — not by moving slowly, because goodness knows students think we move too slowly! I don't mean around big issues that the college needs to be tending to.

I just mean in individual moments, mostly one-on-one with students or in small group situations. The ability to say, "You know what? Emotions are running high, we're not at our best, let's come together tomorrow over tea and talk again." Off the top of my head, that's what I would say is the skill or practice that's critical, and doesn't get enough attention.

"As hard as those conversations were, I thought, 'This is what matters to me: being in these conversations with students.' "

MC: What will you miss most about this role?

KSA: I will miss most the people I work with really closely. That's a hard one to say without getting teary. I think highly about so many colleagues across student life, but I have a senior leadership team that is just an extraordinary group of people, and I lucked into them. I hired a couple of them, but most of them were already in their positions and were my peers, the people I was sitting around a table with, reporting to somebody else. They were incredible, when I stepped into this role, about saying, "You're the leader of the division, we're gonna make this happen together." It's nine people I sit with every Wednesday morning, and who oversee the other major areas of student life across campus. They're referred to as the student affairs leadership team, or SALT, so I refer to them as the saltines.

I'm not going anywhere, I'll have lunch with people and go on walks with people, but there's something extraordinary about being in a really tough work environment where you work with people you know you can depend upon in a fundamentally unshakeable way. I was lucky enough to have that, and I know that's what I'll miss the most.

This interview has been lightly edited for clarity.

SGA VOICES SUPPORT FOR MINORITY STUDENTS

By BEN DOHAN
Contributing Writer

The Student Government Association (SGA) passed a resolution on Sunday titled "Support for Black and Minority Students," which included calls for changed judicial practices and new training for faculty and staff.

The vote was near unanimous, with only Cook Commons Senator Connor McCormick '18 abstaining. The resolution was drafted by SGA Speaker and Feb Senator Rae Aaron '19.5, SGA President Jin Sohn '18, First-Year Senator David Vargas and President of the Black Student Union (BSU) Charles Rainey '19.

The resolution consists of eight points.

Two of the points focus on judicial processes. One calls for restorative justice training for the academic and judicial boards. Another calls for students to be able to appeal their policy violation decisions to the judicial board retroactively, after policies have changed.

To increase transparency, a clause suggests a website to record the school's progress with goals and deadlines.

Another point asks the college to hire an outside conflict mediator. For current employees, one clause calls for mandatory diversity training for all faculty and staff members and de-escalation training for campus security personnel.

In a notable statement coming from the SGA, which has no black representatives, the resolution also calls for increased representation of black and minority students in decision making bodies.

Two broad resolutions call for expedited responses to occurences of racism on campus and increased communication between the administration and student cultural organizations.

Although some senators expressed concern that the resolution was too open-ended, only one change was made during the discussion before the resolution was passed. A friendly amendment by Community Council Co-Chair Kyle Wright '19.5 calling for the SGA to work with Community Council on the issues in the resolution was accepted as the ninth clause of the document.

Aaron said that Rainey was a major help in making the resolution possible.

"[Rainey] came to the SGA right when tensions were really high earlier in the fall and we decided as a senate that something needed to happen, but we weren't sure what it was," Aaron said.

"These grievances have been here on this campus for a long time, black students have felt unheard long before I got to campus, long before [Aaron] got to campus, by both the SGA and the administration," Rainey said. "This is a first step. I don't want to say that it's done."

"There's a discord between black students who get more jaded much more quickly than our white counterparts might when it comes to relationships with the SGA," Rainey continued. "What I hope is that this bill serves as a first step towards saying, 'Hey, the SGA can be an advocacy body for black students and for minorities,' and help rebuild the trust that hasn't been there for a while."

On Monday, President Laurie L. Patton announced the creation of a new position, Director of Diversity and Inclusion Education and Training, which may partially address clauses three and six: the hiring of an outside mediator and mandatory diversity training.

"What we're realizing is that there are so many conversations happening among the faculty and the administration and students about the same things" Aaron said. "Hopefully, this bill will show support for the processes the administration is already working on and that they'll continue to be transparent with us to make sure that black students on campus and the SGA and others know what tangible actions are happening."

Football Player Talks Protest

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right thing because that's what I think every time I hear the anthem. And I feel like taking a knee is part of that progress towards a better United States."

For Blow, protest is part of a long-standing American tradition to honestly recognize the nation's flaws and the need to rectify them. He emphasized his deep respect for members of the military, and that his decision to protest is meant to highlight systemic, racial injustice, not disrespect those who serve .

"I respect their decision to kneel during the national anthem," Ritter said. "They wanted to make a statement about race and inequality, and they made it clear to their coaches and teammates that they weren't protesting the military, our country, or the national anthem."

According to Blow, his teammates were understanding of his and Meritus' decision, and even those who disagreed did so in a way that did not tarnish friendships, or affect the team. Ritter agreed.

"We have always tried to foster an atmosphere of respect and inclusivity on our team. Although some of our players expressed various viewpoints on this subject, our discussions were thoughtful and respectful, and our players were supportive of each other," he said.

For the rest of the season, Blow and Meritus continued to protest. The following week, they played and protested at Bates without incident. However, the following week, at an Oct. 28 home game against Trinity, someone in the stands began heckling Blow and Meritus, telling them to stand up and respect the flag. The tirade ended with the man using a racial slur.

"He yelled, 'n–gger.' Initially, when he started heckling, I was a little flustered," Blow said. "But as soon as he said, 'n–gger,' I was immediately sure of what I was doing."

For Blow, the incident showcased the kind of bigotry that he and others who protest are trying to expose.

"Racial hatred and discrimination [exist]. And it's in our community," he said. "That's what taking a knee is all about — facilitating a discussion and making you see that there is a racial undertone to our politics and our policing that negatively affects black people."

The team's final game against Tufts took place on Nov. 11, Veterans Day. As he prepared for the game, Blow grappled with how to protest in a way that could not be perceived as disrespecting those who served. After researching how to properly salute a member of the military, he came up with his plan. On gameday, as the national anthem played, Blow did not face the flag, opting instead to stand and salute a member of the military who was in attendance.

Blow emphasized that he does not tend to seek the spotlight, which is why he waited more than a month to talk on the record for this article. But he is interested in engaging in conversations with members of the Middlebury community about issues related to race.

His and Meritus' decision to protest comes at a time when issues of race have dominated not only national discussions, but also those on campus. Events like a student's alleged incident of racial profiling, racially charged vandalism and the aftermath of the student-led protests of Charles Murray have sparked campus-wide conversations about race and class, and systemic problems that many feel the college has failed to address.

"I see problems happen on campus and I look at them through a societal lens," he said. "I see things happen and I'm not upset with Middlebury or the Middlebury community, I'm just recognizing even more that there are problems in our society that we have to deal with."

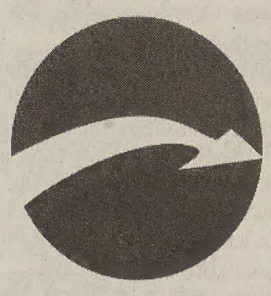
"In a way, me kneeling for those societal issues, is me kneeling for those problems we face at Middlebury."

ACTR Introduces New Schedule and Change of Hub

By REBECCA WALKER
Local Editor

On Friday, Dec. 1, Addison County Transit Resources (ACTR) published a renovated shuttle bus schedule as a result of the relocation of the Middlebury Transit Hub from Merchant's Row to Academy Street near Twilight Hall. The hub change became necessary because of the downtown Middlebury bridge construction, but the new location should make the bus services more accessible to students at the college.

"I am very excited to share with you the launch of renovated and revamped ACTR bus services, so that you can get where you need to go with more ease!" SGA President Jin Sohn '18 said in her email announcing the changes to students.



COURTESY OF ACTR LINKEDIN

The Middlebury Shuttle Bus (MSB) College Shuttle, a fare-free mode of transportation, will now offer frequent service at ADK, Axinn@McCullough and Freeman Way, according to Sohn. The Academy Street Hub also provides passenger shelter so that commuters will have protection from the elements, especially in the upcoming winter months.

"The boon of these necessary changes is improved connectivity for the college campus," Mary-Claire Crogan, community relations manager for ACTR, said. "Campus riders now have direct access to every route from Twilight Hall."

Crogan shared that last year, she worked with some members of the SGA in addressing climate change through public transit. Together they addressed potential campus stops that could be used to reach desirable locations around Middlebury for students. The new stop at Axinn@McCullough is a result of these collaborations, according to Crogan.

"The SGA helps to cover some of the costs for the ACTR services through a grant dedicated to sustainable transportation initiatives," Sohn said.

Crogan noted that there were conversations about the new Academy Street hub with the SGA as well, but that the move was really part of larger town and state affairs, in which various officials and community members worked together to make the decisions.

According to Crogan, the new hub does present some challenges. For example, there were concerns about walkability for physically impaired riders and for the schedules and transfers that would be affected by the new location. However, since the summer, ACTR and the town of Middlebury have been working to alleviate these concerns.

"The town relieved walkability concerns by permitting new stops at the Post Office that can be used to access downtown locations and the new hub," Crogan explained. "Staff worked all summer testing new pathways, looking for efficiencies and rewriting timetables. We found creative ways to keep the in-town buses pulsing with the same frequency."

Since the launch of the new schedule last Friday, the system has been running smoothly. New Main Street stops maintain bus accessibility for commuters around North Pleasant Street or anyone looking to access downtown services. Crogan said that the new Academy Street hub has had the largest impact on the Tri-Town Bristol and Vergennes routes, the riders of which will now have slightly longer trips.

Although she is unable to predict how much these changes will increase student bus usage, Crogan thinks the incentives for using the new system will appeal to students at the college.

"Many members of the college community say they are concerned about the effect of carbon on the environment," she said. "Riding the bus is a small change a person can make with a significant climate impact."

Sohn believes that the new system will increase ridership of Middlebury students, especially since the flexibility and number of stops have increased on campus.

"I also expect this service to be especially helpful to students who travel to town(s) often or live off-campus, and for students who need transportation accommodations," Sohn said. "The ACTR buses are wheelchair accessible and ADA-compliant, both very important factors."

Crogan highlighted the ways in which the bus system can work to connect students at the college with the greater Middlebury and state communities as well. For example, it can make students aware of local events and places that will diversify their Vermont experience and expose them to communities in the state. Additionally, by using the ACTR system, students help to maintain its funding and existence for the larger community.

"'Transportation for everyone' is written on the side of every ACTR bus, and that is absolutely true. Students using transit share the ride with members of the community from every age and socio-economic background," Crogan said.

Sohn agreed that increased opportunities for students to explore beyond the college bubble will likely lead to increased interactions with the outside community.

"I think it will be important to see to what extent these interactions happen and how we can find ways to create similar opportunities to promote stronger community relations in other sectors on and off campus as well," Sohn said.

Both Sohn and Crogan emphasized some key elements of the ACTR bus system that students may not be aware of. These include that there is no cost to ride to destinations in the town of Middlebury, that buses will pull over at any safe location to pick up passengers who wave, that the MSB Hospital bus now serves Porter ExpressCare and that the Snow Bowl shuttle is fare-free for Middlebury College students.

According to ACTR, there will be new signs, new schedule brochures and updated website information to reflect these changes. Additionally, riders can call 388-ACTR(2287) with any remaining questions.

"'Transportation for everyone' is written on the side of every ACTR bus, and that is absolutely true. Students using transit share the ride with members of the community from every age and socio-economic background."

MARY-CLAIRE CROGAN
COMMUNITY RELATIONS MANAGER OF ACTR

COURTESY OF CVD'S LINKEDIN

Plants growing at Champlain Valley Dispensary.

Medical Marijuana Dispensary Eyes Middlebury

By SADIE HOUSBERG
Contributing Writer

On Monday, Nov. 27, the Middlebury Development Review Board (DRB) heard a proposal by Champlain Valley Dispensary (CVD) to establish a medical-marijuana dispensary in Addison County.

Following the passage of Act 65 on Thursday, June 8, 2017, Champlain Valley Dispensary was able to start the search for an additional location. The act made various reforms to the Vermont Marijuana Registry. These changes include the addition of Crohn's disease, Parkinson's disease and post-traumatic stress disorder to the list of medical conditions that qualify a patient to be on the registry, as well as the expansion of the number of dispensary licenses available from four to five. Moreover, Act 65 allows a dispensary to serve a patient at two locations under the same license and eliminates the regulation that a dispensary be a nonprofit organization.

"This is a retail operation not unlike other retail establishments like Rite Aid or other pharmacies."

SHAYNE LYNN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CVD

Currently, CVD serves approximately 3,000 qualifying patients, or two-thirds of the state's medical marijuana patients, through its Burlington and Brattleboro locations. Vermont Department of Public Safety reports that as of Aug. 24, Addison County had 233 patients enrolled in the Marijuana Registry. CVD is hoping to appeal to those cardholders at the proposed location at 1641 Route 7 South, owned by Stepping Stone Investments LLC and formerly occupied by Planned Parenthood.

At the hearing last Monday, Shayne Lynn, executive director of CVD, cited easy access and parking as two reasons why the Middlebury location is ideal. Lynn responded to concerns from members of the DRB about traffic increases, saying that the present owners also own the adjacent property, which would provide adequate room to expand parking. Additionally, the Addison County Independent reports that the Route 7 location "meets a criterion prescribed in state law: It is more than 1,000 feet away from a nursery, childcare facility or school."

Current zoning regulations in the town of Middlebury do not include the possibility of a medical marijuana dispensary, which is why CVD has pitched itself as a "retail dispensary." According to the Independent, the qualification of the location as a "retail" establishment could allow for its approval in the Protected Highway District on a conditional basis. Thus, CVD's proposal includes both the medical marijuana dispensary and its sister company, Ceres Natural Remedies.

"Customers would need to be registered with the state to purchase medical marijuana products, but the purchase of cannabidiol (CBD — a compound found in the hemp plant) products from the Ceres store would be open to the general public over the age of 18," Lynn explained at the hearing. He described CBD products as "non-intoxicating" and as a form of enhancing "the medical effectiveness of the medical marijuana products."

Lynn emphasized that the medical marijuana dispensary and Ceres Natural Remedies are separate operations and will be conducted as such. "This is a retail operation not unlike other retail establishments like Rite Aid or other pharmacies. At the Brattleboro and Burlington locations, these two stores are co-located with other businesses with no problems," said Lynn.

As he explained in the Independent,"Ceres carries around 15 cannabidiol products that have become popular among folks who want relief from the symptoms of neuropathy, epilepsy, sleep disorders and other ailments – without the intoxicating effects of marijuana.

Lynn does not believe that the success of the dispensary is contingent upon the Ceres store. However, he explained that "it increases the amount of time [CVD] has to consult with [its] patients, and it allows family members to be involved in the visit, as they are not allowed to enter with patients on the dispensary side."

At the Route 7 location, CVD's sister company would sell "alternative homeopathic-type products," including capsules, transdermal patches, oils and topical creams. Vaporizers are the only potential paraphernalia that Ceres would offer. Fifty percent of CVD's patients buy these products with the intent of enhancing their medical treatment. Bridget Conry, CVD operations manager, told the DRB that Ceres has grown as a business largely because of referrals from the medical professional community.

Members of the board asked the CVD director to explain what would happen "on each side of the locked door." Lynn clarified that medical marijuana patients would be invited into a separate locked and secure area for services, which are governed by strict state rules. Vermont Statutes Annotated chapter 86, subchapter 2, stipulates that regarding the therapeutic use of cannabis and the creation of marijuana dispensaries, "all cultivation of marijuana must take place in an enclosed, locked facility," access to which is limited to approved personnel. Additionally, the Vermont Department of Public Safety conducts background checks of each principal officer, board member, and employee of registered dispensaries.

"CVD is committed to making sure [its] business operation and facility is safe for patients, customers, and employees," Lynn said. "Patient privacy is a concern, and CVD is willing to improve landscaping to achieve this objective if the Development Review Board feels that is necessary."

The CVD application also includes security components such as a video surveillance system, backup power sources in case of electrical failure, lockboxes and safes for the purpose of storing cannabis, and communication with local law enforcement.

The DRB brought up the possibility of the legalization of recreational/adult use of marijuana, expressing concerns over the impact of that change with this proposed addition to the town of Middlebury.

"The medical-marijuana market is very important to [CVD]," said Lynn, and its needs are "very different from the needs of the recreational adult market. CVD would be willing to come back [to the DRB] for an amendment if [legalization] occurred."

After examining CVD's proposed application and considering the testimony presented at last Monday's hearing, the DRB unanimously authorized the drafting of a conceptual approval to be signed by the board's chair following further review.

COURTESY OF THE JOURNAL OF PROFESSIONAL CANNABIS GROWERS AND RETAILERS

Worker at a Champlain Valley Dispensary location.

Werner Christmas Tree Farm Gears Up for Holidays

By AMELIA POLLARD
Local Editor

As the holidays descend on Middlebury, the Werner Christmas Tree Farm has gone into overdrive to prepare for its 26th season. The owners, Cheryl and David Werner, started the farm after David's father, Fred, who had a passion for planting trees, gave them a batch of Scotch pines.

The family business has since trickled down to Fred's grandchildren, who now often come back to Middlebury between Thanksgiving and Christmas to serve as the farm's elves as sales go into high gear. Amanda Werner, a Skidmore College graduate and full-time cheesemaker at Champlain Valley Creamery, is the only one of Cheryl and David's children who helps year-round.

The farm consists of 25 acres near the couple's home, with another 10 acres in Lincoln, Vermont. The farm aims to sell around 2,000 trees each year while having 35,000 planted trees in various stages of growth. At the time of Fred Werner's gift of pines, Christmas tree farms were ubiquitous across the region. An Addison County Christmas Tree Growers Association, which has since disbanded, had a substantial membership base.

EMMA STAPLETON
Entrance of the Werner Tree Farm.

"We plant in spring, and we always plant more trees than we end up cutting off," Amanda said. "In the summer months we'll shear the trees, using a long knife like a machete. We walk around them and swing the knife, knocking off the tips of the branches to outline the shape we want."

The undulating nature of the Christmas-tree industry calls for a spike of 10 to 12 workers during peak season, while only the immediate family works during the rest of the year. In the coming month, the family will divide the workload, with Cheryl Werner handling checkout, Amanda Werner making wreaths and David Werner creating garlands.

On a typical December weekend, the farm can anticipate around 200 people searching for Christmas trees. Equipped with measuring sticks and bow saws, some customers like to cut their own, while others choose from the selection of pre-cut trees. The trees are not distinctly organized by height, but workers direct customers to fields that typically have certain height ranges.

"We say that most people have eyes taller than their ceiling," Amanda Werner said. "They may think a six-foot tree sounds like a good height but then are drawn to trees closer to eight feet in height."

David Werner, who is a full-time woodworker the rest of the year, runs most of the business operations in his workshop on the property during the holiday season. The decorated barn is stocked with maple syrup and garlands but has wood clamps and tools peeking out behind the garlands on the walls. Cheryl Werner occupies the rest of her time as a teacher in plant, animal and mechanical sciences at the Hannaford Career Center.

Amanda Werner hopes to keep the family business going when her parents retire, possibly in the next few years. She also hopes to add new programs and activities to the farm.

"It'd be really fun if we could have a build-your-own-centerpiece workshop," she said. "I don't know if we'll ever have enough time and people to do this, but we do have a sleigh, and one of the horses knows how to pull it. We would also need snow for that, though."

Although entirely a retail operation today, the farm used to ship trees wholesale. The appeal of a true Vermont pine tree drew orders from as far as the Caribbean. Amanda fondly remembers packaging trees for Bermuda nearly 15 years ago after a heavy snow. Transported in the bottom of a large ship, the trees were unwrapped hundreds of miles away with the snow still intact on them.

As climate change becomes more apparent each year, the Werners have noticed less snow and later freezes.

"Obviously, we'll have to deal with warming more and more in the future," Amanda Werner said. "This year was a little bit easier for us because we had that cold snap early in November and we need three hard freezes before we can do any harvesting. The freezes trigger a sort of hibernation of the trees [that] sets the needles."

To handle the warming climate, the Werners have shifted most of their brush cutting up to their mountain fields. These areas get colder earlier and allow for the first harvesting of the season. With a warming Vermont climate, the farm may have to move more of its production to a higher elevation. However, the lack of snow has not prevented customers — both local and out-of-state — from flocking to the farm as soon as Thanksgiving leftovers start to diminish.

According to David Werner, the lack of snow has meant a steadier stream of customers during the month of December, rather than a swarm at the first sight of flurries. With snowy days farther apart, people are no longer willing to wait for the increasingly rare snow days.

For more information on the Werner Tree Farm, visit their website at www.wernertreefarm.org.

COURTESY OF AMANDA WERNER
A worker at the farm wrapped up Christmas trees for customers.

EMMA STAPLETON
Amanda and David Werner craft wreaths and garlands.

SPECIAL FEATURE

A Thank You to the Facilities Staff

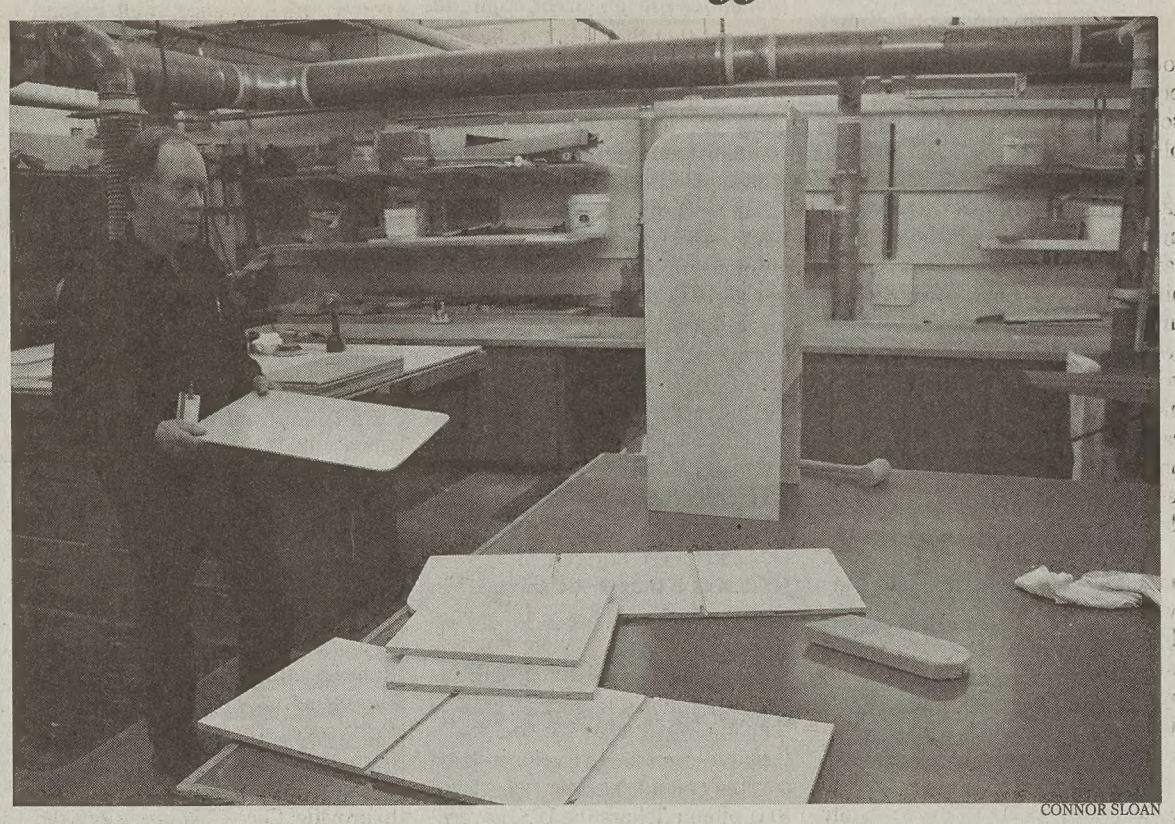
By CONNOR SLOAN
Contributor

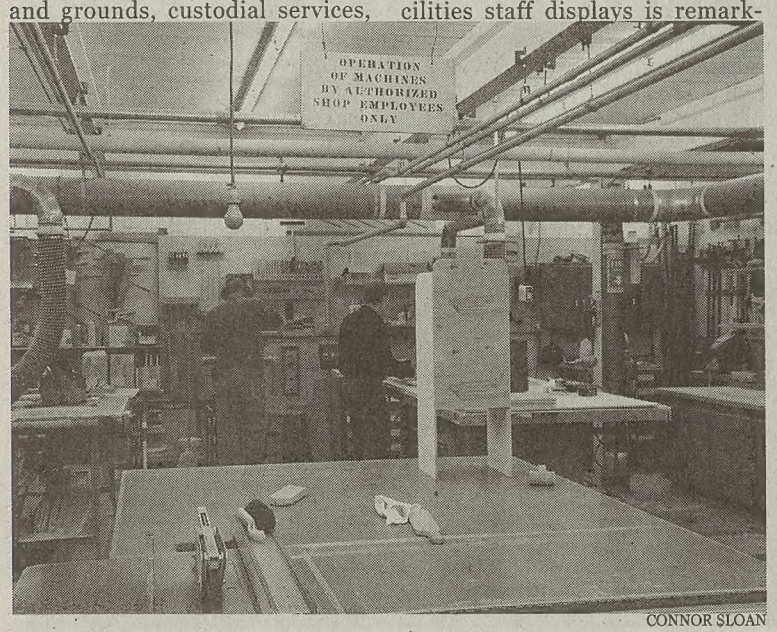
Despite its prominent location in the center of Middlebury College's campus, the Facilities Services building remains to many students a fortress of steel and glass shrouded in mystery. Without classrooms, art studios or workout equipment, most of the student body will never set foot inside the structure's maze of corridors, and yet the building and the talented people that work inside it are pivotal to the upkeep and improvement of our community.

The maintenance and operations division of Facilities Services is responsible for the maintenance of the college's buildings and grounds, custodial services, and recycling & waste management, among other duties. The Facilities Services building houses workshops for all the trades necessary to the continual care of the college, including spaces for carpenters, electricians, locksmiths, painters, landscapers and custodial staff.

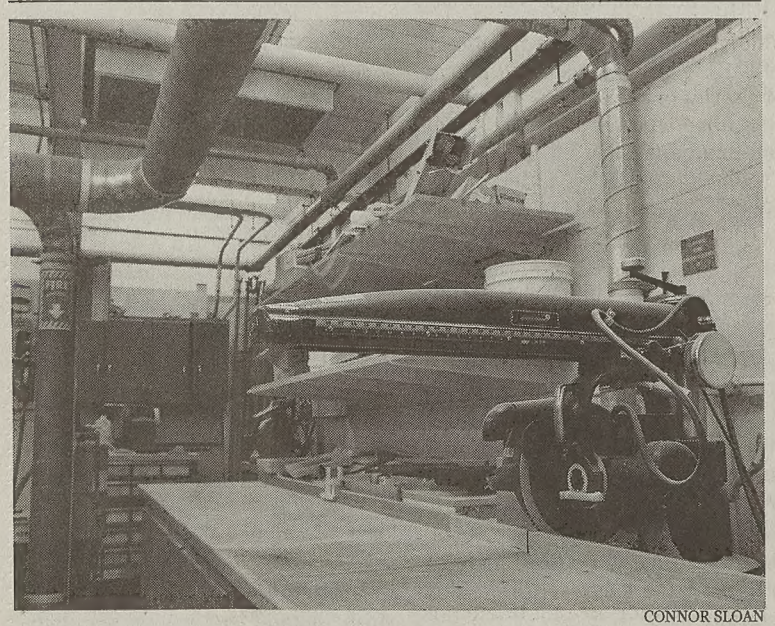
Together, this specialized team manages 51 academic and business buildings, 57 residence halls, and 39 faculty/staff rental properties, while also sustaining 202 acres of main campus and residential grounds, 89 acres of athletic fields, and 16 miles of sidewalks.

With so much to upkeep on a campus that constantly bustles with activity, the level of efficiency and workmanship that the Facilities staff displays is remarkable.


CONNOR SLOAN
Wayne Hall gathers the completed wood pieces to make newsstands.



CONNOR SLOAN
Ronald Munson (left) and Wayne Hall in the carpentry workshop.


CONNOR SLOAN
Cutting machines allow for precision when crafting projects.

Ronald Munson, a maintenance carpenter of twenty years, summed up the ethos of the department in an interview: "We all work as a team. We're all as good as each other."

In addition to their daily, unheralded work to maintain and improve our community, the Facilities staff goes above and beyond the call of duty to ensure students' comfort and success here at the College. Recently, when The Campus needed newsstands to better distribute its paper around the town and College, the Facilities Services department volunteered to build them for free.

Wayne Hall, who works as the supervisor of carpenters, painters and locksmiths, and the rest of the maintenance and operations team, offered to construct and paint the newsstands from scratch, all for the sake of helping improve student life through supporting a student organization.

"I reached out to Wayne and from the start he was extremely helpful," said Evan Chaletzky '19, business manager of The Campus. "Not only did he take time out of his busy day to meet with me, but he was also very enthusiastic about the whole project. It was great that someone was so passionate about helping a student organization and so willing to offer his time and advice."

Thad Stowe, the manager of office moves and furniture distribution, is another member of the Facilities Services department whose work to improve student life is both persistent and subtle. Mr. Stowe works diligently with students to replace dilapidated furniture in residence halls and common spaces and refurnish the spaces to the liking of the student body.

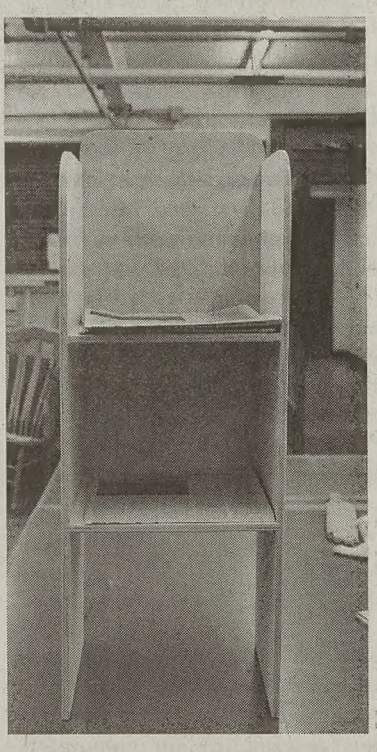
Last year, Stowe and a group of students replaced the furniture in Crossroads Café, and his current project is to tackle the tired sofas of The Grille, a task that he aims to complete by the beginning of January.

The maintenance and perations branch of the Facilities Services department quietly and consistently helps students and their organizations in whatever ways it can, and whether it is providing a flag for a film shoot, renovating common spaces or building newspaper racks, its staff does everything in its power to help ease the stresses of student life.

"The Facilities staff is so important in helping us every day, but rarely do we realize how integral they are to our school," said Chaletzky.

It is comforting to go through life here with the knowledge that the Facilities Services' staff has a genuine interest in bettering the student experience at Middlebury College.

As Mr. Hall said, "There's always somebody on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year."


CONNOR SLOAN
One of many newsstands crafted in the shop.

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On the GOP Tax Plan

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD

In our last editorial for this fall semester, we think it is important to further compound our finals stress by considering some of the dangerous repercussions of the Republican tax plan, a bill passed by the House and Senate that is expected to soon become law.

The plan, touted by many Republican lawmakers as intended to benefit the working and middle classes, will in fact target some of the most vulnerable populations. According to analysis by PBS, the changes include tax hikes for those earning less than $30,000 per year, having disastrous implications for lower income families in particular.

Although the pernicious effects of this legislation are broad, affecting the tax deductibility of school supplies and student loan payments, we have chosen to focus more narrowly on the ways in which the plan targets higher education.

We recognize that much of the conversation has been too heavily slanted away from discussing the effects that the proposal would have on especially vulnerable populations, and appreciate that even having the ability to consider graduate school represents a manifestation of some relative privilege.

At the same time, we acknowledge that enrollment or completion of a graduate program does not guarantee a change in marginalization status of someone, whether that is low-income status, race or gender. Further, for some students at Middlebury, the most immediate effects do not lie in affecting their ability to go to graduate school. The tax hikes for lower income families will be more damaging than a graduate school tax.

The Republican tax plan is, simply put, an attack on systems of higher education, affecting both private and public institutions. Among its provisions, the plan would tax tuition waivers for graduate students, increasing their tax payments by thousands in most cases, by some estimations

It would also make college and university endowments taxable. We encourage readers to visit an article by news editor Nick Garber, "College Officials Voice Opposition to GOP Tax Bills," which discusses the proposed endowment and student loan interest tax — with its approval meaning 12 or 13 students could not receive financial aid.

We encourage Middlebury College to make an official statement opposing the bill — especially in the midst of current efforts to support marginalized students.

The immediate effects of the plan are astounding, but its long-term implications are even more bleak. The plan would make elite institutions such as ours even more inaccessible to people of lower incomes. A person of more affluent means will always be able to go to graduate school, just in the way that wealthy institutions like Harvard will always find the resources they need for their graduate schools to thrive.

The real concern here, the people and places being most profoundly hurt by this plan, are those with fewer financial resources — the students and institutions with less private funding. Although those who support this bill may take issue with how liberal many academic institutions have become, those are not the ones which will be most profoundly affected by the plan. The plan would make elitist institutions like ours even more inaccessible to those with less financial stability.

For more vulnerable students, modifications like taxing tuition waivers can be the difference between going to graduate school and pursuing employment after graduation. These are decisions that should not have to be influenced by finances. Regardless of income, all students should have the opportunity to pursue a more advanced degree, should they so choose. Limiting the access to higher education only further inhibits social mobility and suppresses the lower and middle classes in our already oppressive economic systems.

Beyond the independent implications of the plan, there are the broader concerns for our nation's ability to compete in global economies. Disincentivizing people from pursuing higher education will set us back globally. As Inside Higher Ed reported, more than 50 percent of those studying in STEM fields in graduate schools in the United States are from other countries; at some universities, the number is around 80 percent.

Many of those students will leave our country (especially with the encouragement of our prohibitive federal immigration system), bringing their skills and knowledge elsewhere, in place of keeping that skilled labor here.

For those of us facing already daunting decisions after graduation, the Republican tax plan only adds to those worries. The general uncertainty we already manage will be compounded by the Republican tax plan's attack on higher education.

For many, the effects of the plan will be an inconvenience. For others, it may radically shift the options available to them for their futures. In a world that should be dedicated to expanding access to education for all, this plan works against an admirable mission under the false claim of benefitting the middle class.

Response to "Setting the Record Straight"

By ALLISON STANGER

Allow me to be more precise, for the record. "The CHAIR OF THE Sociology/Anthropology Department sought to rally the community to censor the Political Science department by demanding that we withdraw our co-sponsorship. In so doing, they abandoned long established norms of tolerance and open-mindedness, as well as collegiality."

When an individual self-identifies as the chair of Sociology and Anthropology and speaks to the press, it certainly creates the impression that he is speaking on behalf of his colleagues. I chose the phrasing that I did to avoid writing an individual into the Congressional or public record, but since you are now publicly questioning my personal integrity, I have no choice but to do so.

"Setting the Record Straight" was an op-ed from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology that appeared in the Campus edition printed on Thursday, Nov. 30.

Allison Stanger is the Leng Professor of International Politics and Economics at Middlebury College. This originally appeared online on Dec. 1.

Response to "Response to Setting the Record Straight"

By KEVIN MOSS

As long as Professor Stanger is advocating precision for the record, perhaps she could correct the description of the event at ASU, which currently reads as follows: "Professor Stanger was there to verbally challenge the speaker. She never got the chance, and the invited speaker never spoke." There are at least two falsehoods in those two sentences, possibly three. She did get the chance to challenge the speaker and the speaker did speak. We have a link on the Middlebury website to prove that.

As to whether she "verbally challenged" the speaker, I suspect we disagree. I don't find the following introduction to a discussion of The Bell Curve "verbally challenging":

"Please know that I believe your work has been unjustly maligned. Correlation is not causation, as you yourself have repeatedly pointed out. I don't want to question your data from The Bell Curve. Instead, let's assume your data is sound."

But the other two falsehoods on the ASU website clearly distort the record to play into the dominant narrative used to defame the college and they should be corrected.

Kevin Moss is the Jean Thomson Fulton Professor of Modern Languages and Literature at Middlebury College. This originally appeared online on Dec. 1.

SHARP LEFT

Paradise Lost

By TEVAN GOLDBERG

In the previous month, two major tax-related developments have occurred to signal and hasten our society's already speedy descent into oligarchy.

November saw the release of the 14.3 million Paradise Papers leak, an unbelievably damning who's-who of tax evading corporations, billionaires, celebrities, and (big surprise) universities. Since this news has already fully dissipated into the dark void of news cycles past, it is convenient that our determined Republican "representatives'" in Congress have successfully resurfaced the issue by ramming through last Sunday's egregious tax bill.

By my calculations, this should us give us at least another week-long window to publicly acknowledge the dramatic ascendancy of corporate power, before it's inevitably cut off by, I don't know, news that Trump is turning the EPA headquarters into a casino. (You heard it hear first.)

Jokes/clairvoyant predictions aside, what these two events really did was confirm in ugly detail the extent to which the world's reigning companies and elite citizens have fallen from membership in any commonwealth, besides the tax-free one stitched together by their intrepid army of morally bankrupt lawyers, toadyish politicians and unending shell companies.

An illustration from Süddeutsche Zeitung, the newspaper that originally reported the Panama Papers.

If we weren't so numb to it, and so enthralled by the charms of these companies' products and the celebrities that advertise them, there would probably be riots. The Papers showed us who these actors are and the clever tricks they're pulling to privately benefit, but the tax bill shows that the bolder among them have grown weary of maintaining a civic façade.

We are entering a new phase of political consolidation, wherein corporate interests are secure enough in their control of the American government that they don't really have to concoct psejudo-economic arguments anymore. Just look at the smirk on Mitch McConnell's face when he announces that the tax plan will benefit mainly "regular working folks" (or something along those lines) — they know that their popular opposition is currently toothless, and their base is so riled up by whatever/whoever Sean Hannity is telling them to despise that they hardly analyze the details.

(I actually checked the Fox News website while writing this and the only front-page mention of the tax plan was an op-ed by McConnell in the bottom corner entitled "How Our Tax Plan Will Help You.")

It is not simply the sheer injustice of it that is so concerning, even though the fact that people in poverty or undocumented immigrants are paying proportionally more in taxes than multibillion-dollar companies is patently horrendous. Nor is it, according to a 2016 Oxfam report, the $111 billion dollars the U.S. government loses in tax revenue every year to tax evasion, more than enough to cover all public college tuition, or any number of welfare programs; and this is marginal in the face of the nearly $1 trillion of lost revenue estimated to ultimately occur from the tax giveaway.

No, the greatest implication is the realization that the supposedly democratic and representative governments of the world are unwilling, and now possibly incapable, of controlling global business. It is, in effect, a slowly unfolding coup, a role reversal wherein the formerly indisputable master has become willing servant.

The crucial problem with this is that corporations are fundamentally undemocratic institutions. They are basically rigidly hierarchical constitutional monarchies, and as their power and influence swell beyond antiquated national borders, their actions and decisions become increasingly unaccountable to any sort of public interest.

For as insanely vicious as states have been in the history of the world, they are distinguished from corporations by their theoretical duty to protect and enhance the wellbeing of their citizens. Whether this actually happens is obviously subject to heated debate, but it is not structurally precluded.

However, the indivisible, primary reason for corporations to exist is to make a profit. This may be quite useful to those who are privy to the dividends of that profit, but unless it is subjected to an external, normative redistributive force, will never wholly benefit the society whose taxes and toil help to create the conditions for these corporations to exist.

Furthermore, unlike government social services, there is often no actual need for much of what these massive companies are built to provide; Coca-Cola provisions the entire world with soft drinks that are terribly unhealthy and environmentally destructive to produce or distribute, yet it is a supremely powerful political player and makes billions in revenue each year.

In other words, governments are ceding control to organizations that are largely inaccessible to public oversight, and are better suited to making and distributing piles of useless objects than administering the services necessary for fulfillment of basic needs. If the phrase 'ceding control' seems melodramatic, then why has there been a steady revolving door for regulators between Monsanto and the Department of Agriculture, Goldman Sachs and the Treasury, and now Exxon to the State Department?

The Paradise Papers and tax scam simply make the obvious, well, even more obvious: Our governments are blatantly corrupt, tax systems are a joke, and the poor are getting screwed so that more yachts can be sold.

Any political platform that does not see this incomprehensible injustice as the principal problem in our society is either missing the point, or more likely, has been co-opted into ensuring this paradigm continues.

Yet our lives, like our countries, have become so structured around corporate agendas that it is hard to see the current situation as the consumerist neo-aristocracy that it has become. How many more Pentagon, Panama, and Paradise Papers will it take before we get organized?

Response to "Response to 'Response to Setting the Record Straight'"

By PAUL CARRESE '89

The academic department at Arizona State University that I direct — the School of Civic & Economic Thought and Leadership (SCETL) — received an email from Middlebury faculty member Kevin Moss, inviting our school to "correct" the putative falsehoods he describes in his Campus posting about a February event at ASU with Middlebury professor Allison Stanger and a Reed College professor, on controversies about speech and speakers on college campuses.

We are accused of "distort[ing] the record" of the Charles Murray events at Middlebury in March 2017 and "play[ing] into the dominant narrative used to defame the college."

Professor Moss may not realize that the director of this ASU School happens to be a 1989 Middlebury College graduate; that I returned to the College as a faculty member from 1996 to 1998; that I have stayed in touch with Middlebury mentors and friends in the 20 years I have lived out west; that I am grateful to have visited my alma mater occasionally; and that my wife and I encouraged our two children to apply to Middlebury.

It is true that as a proud alum, and professor, I have followed the news and commentary about the Charles Murray episode and its aftermath with greater care than the typical American academic might have done. Nonetheless, our school's February event with professor Stanger was not my idea, but was proposed to us by a professor from ASU's Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communications; and he did so without knowledge of my deep Middlebury connections.

The topics that professor Stanger and Reed professor Lucía Martínez Valdivia will address are of national interest. Further, this event is part of a series our school has organized — with co-sponsorship from ASU's O'Connor College of Law and the Cronkite School — on "Freedom of Speech and Intellectual Diversity in Higher Education and American Life."

We have assembled a range of viewpoints, from those who advocate restricting speech and speakers to those holding a more traditional First Amendment view about latitude and protection for campus discourse. Information about the series, including a two-day conference, is on our school's website under "Events" — and a reasonable observer would conclude that we seek civil debate in an academic setting, open for anyone to attend, about these important national issues.

One more point of context: Fairness requires disclosure that I have publicly stated my views about the significance of the Charles Murray episode, and the college's response to it, in an opinion essay I co-authored with five other Middlebury alums who became professors in various academic fields. That essay appeared in RealClearPolitics on June 1 and is readily available. At least half of the authors would consider themselves politically liberal or progressive; and it would take quite sophisticated efforts to discern therein any intent to defame or polemicize.

Finally, to the accusations: While I respect, as a Middlebury alum and friend of the college, the professor's concern about accurate representations of the college and events there, we will have to agree to disagree about the many matters of interpretation involved. I would not retract a word of the brief description our school provided to advertise this dialogue event about the Murray episode and its aftermath.

That description obviously is not the final word on these events and their significance. That said, there is nothing false or distorting about it, even if it necessarily compresses a complicated episode.

The fundamental facts about this episode, evident in many journalistic and eyewitness reports — and in investigations by the college and the town police that followed — are that a speaker invited through normal college procedures was forcefully prevented from speaking in the originally invited venue; that similar use of force and noise continued in an effort to disrupt the backup venue provided to the speaker and professor Stanger; and finally that these preliminary episodes of force led to open violence later in the day.

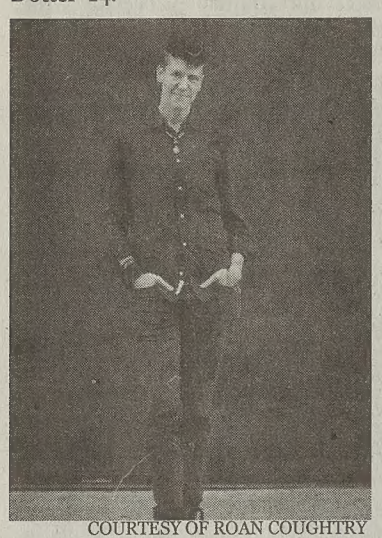
It is odd to accuse our school of distorting the record when the alternative account would omit the fundamental fact about forcefully preventing a scheduled speaker event from unfolding as invited and as originally planned.

One of the prerequisite conditions for higher learning is civility in expressing disagreements about ideas, whether abstract and theoretical or practical and political. I understand that there are disagreements about the meaning and reasonable interpretations of the Middlebury events at issue. However, unreasonable accusations of the sort proffered here don't sustain or replenish the civility needed at Middlebury and all other serious places of learning.

Sexy Ed: Coughtry Gives Workshops on Pleasure and Healing

By COURTENAY ROCHE
Contributing Writer

Sitting in rows of desks in a Hillcrest classroom on Thursday Nov. 30, a group of students watched as sex educator Roan Coughtry demonstrated cutting a condom to make a DIY dental dam. On a table in the corner, stickers, coupons to sex toy stores, smart wallets, and pamphlets proudly displayed the logos of Planned Parenthood and O.School, which is an online pleasure-based sex ed company that was launched earlier this year by a group of sex ed advocates, including Middlebury alumna Kristina Dotter '14.



COURTESY OF ROAN COUGHTRY

Roan Coughtry, a sex educator based out of Atlanta, visted campus and taught two sex ed workshops.

Coughtry is a sex educator at O. School, a company that describes their mission as "building a shame-free space by offering pleasure education through live streaming and moderated chat." Dotter and O. School founder Andrea Barrica visited campus last spring to explain the concept for their new company. This year, Cece Alter '19.5, an O.School intern, thought many students at Middlebury could benefit from a basic sex-ed class that was more LGBTQ inclusive, consent-based, and pleasure-focused than what many students had received in high school.

To that end, Alter organized the event with the support of Chellis House, Queers & Allies, the SGA Sexual Relationship Respect Committee, Feminist Action at Middlebury, and the MCAB Speakers Committee. Coughtry's two workshops were part of a college tour O. School recently debuted, where sex educators travel to colleges around the country to give sex and relationship workshops.

Coughtry's visit to campus included a comprehensive sex education workshop on Nov. 30, followed by a more narrowly focused workshop on healing from trauma and sexual liberation on Dec. 1. The idea behind the two workshops was to provide a basis of education for students before diving into more complex topics surrounding sex and relationships.

"We asked ourselves, what is missing here? And it turns out sex ed is missing here," Alter said. "We have very little sex education in this country, and this world that is available. Maybe some people get here having no sex ed, so you really have to start with safer sex, and the basics of sex education, before you move on to something else, especially because there is no regular sex education [at Middlebury]."

The organizers were attentive to the fact that students, whether coming from a fairly comprehensive sex education, or none at all, likely all had some gaps in their knowledge, and wanted to focus on addressing as many of those topics as possible.

"Some people don't know what an STI is and how to prevent that," Alter said, adding that Coughtry's workshops covered a variety of subjects that most high school programs do not talk about, including consent, pleasure, communication, how to say no, and more queer and trans-inclusive language.

One gap that stood out in many student's previous sex education was that lack of LGBTQ inclusivity. It was particularly important to Alter and the other event organizers as well as queer groups on campus that the workshop was inclusive of queer and trans experiences, especially considering the lack of queer representation in the speakers who usually come to campus. Part of Coughtry's sex ed basics workshop was centered on queer-inclusive anatomical terms that avoid the gendered associations of words like "penis," and "vagina." Instead, Coughtry used "innie" and "outie," because, they said, the gendered associations with biological terms make such words less inclusive.

Coughtry began the workshop by announcing that they were going to help students "unlearn all the crap we've been taught," and acknowledged the difficulty of finding comprehensive, pleasure-based sex education in today's world.

"We live in such a sex-shaming, body-shaming society," they said. "Even if we fit the most narrow definition of what is considered normal sexually, we are probably still shamed for something."

Coughtry also wanted the workshop to focus on safe-sex practices, including preventing unwanted pregnancy and STIs, while avoiding rhetoric that can make STIs seem shameful. They provided as an example the common practice of saying "I'm clean" when you have no STIs, rather than saying that your tests came back negative

"The word clean implies that having STIs are dirty," they said. "People can be in long, healthy relationships when they have STIs...it needs to be more normalized."

The last half of the first workshop was dedicated to communication and consent. Coughtry brought up and then broke all the myths surrounding consent, including ideas such as, "consenting once means consenting every time," or "a lack of a no can be considered a yes." They wanted to address these myths, because many seem so ingrained in society that they are not always disproven or even talked about in regular high school sex ed classes. Coughtry also challenged prevalent myths about communication, most notably: "the biggest myth about communication is that it's happening."

Coughtry's workshops were a major step towards de-stigmatizing sex ed at a college level, and Alter and other organizers hope to make sex ed more permanently prevalent on campus. The SGA Sexual Relationship and Respect Committee has been working with groups on campus to brainstorm ideas for bringing sex ed to Middlebury, perhaps as part of first year orientation, in the form of a possible new student organization, and more speakers and workshops.

"People can be very uncomfortable in sex ed classes, and talking about sex, and I think we need to normalize it more. There's a certain group of people who goes, and only a certain number of times per semester, and we need it to become more part of the culture," said Alter, who is also a member of the Sexual Relationship and Respect Committee.

In the meantime, students seeking more sex education can go to O.School's website to look at thousands of videos on topics ranging from "How to get the most out of your hookup" to "Sex after giving birth." Their website is https://www.o.school.

Poetic Justice, 10 Years Later: Parini Reflects on the Destruction

By BENJAMIN FREEDMAN
Contributing Writer

While some see opportunity for self-reflection amidst nature and solitude among Vermont's idyllic landscapes , others see entirely different opportunities. This December marks the ten-year anniversary of the destruction of Robert Frost's historic cabin in Ripton. In 2007 a group of high school students threw a party at the cabin, which is located on a plot of land that now belongs to Homer Noble Farm.

According to current Public Safety Investigator and former Police Sergeant Lee Hodsden, the idea for the party came from a seventeen-year-old employee of the college, who asked an older friend to buy five thirty-racks of beer for the occasion. Word spread, and close to fifty teenagers arrived at the cabin, colloquially called "Frost Farm," on a cold winter evening. As the night progressed, the party grew out of control, resulting in broken furniture, urine and vomit on the carpets and an estimated $10,000 of damage.

Hodsden responded to the case after a hiker called the police about the damage when passing through the farm.

According to Hodsden, the students had shown a fair amount of determination in getting to the cabin: they had parked at the bottom of the hill by the Robert Frost Interpretive Trail and walked all the way up to the cabin through the snow. In the frigid winter weather, one vehicle had gotten stuck in a ditch near the Interpretative Trail and was left behind by its owner. Hodsden ran the license plate number and linked it to a high school student. Through that individual, Hodsden was able to identify many of the people who had attended the party and pieced together what had happened. Nearly thirty teens were charged with trespassing.

According to a Washington Post article published at the time, the prosecutor in the case had an unusual idea for a potential punishment, which the judge supported. They contacted Jay Parini, a professor of English and creative writing, and asked if he would teach the partiers a course on Frost's poetry.

Parini, who himself had lived in the cabin when he taught at Bread Loaf in the summer, felt a personal stake in the issue and accepted the job.

"I remember being quite upset when I heard, first on the radio, that the Frost House had been overrun by high school kids who had been partying there and caused quite a bit of damage and nearly burned the place down," he said.

Every student accepted the deal and enrolled in Parini's special course. Parini said he met the students for several weeks in a public building and tried to get the students to reflect on how Frost's poetry may be applicable to their own lives. For instance, one of Parini's lessons involved an analysis of "The Road Not Taken."

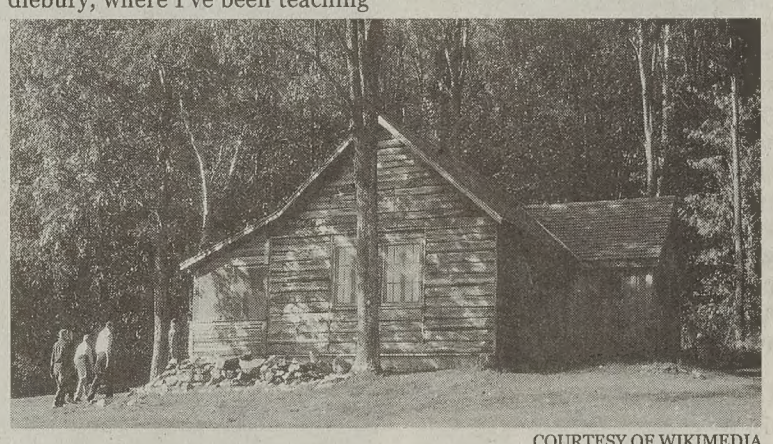
"[I] suggested to them that they stood at a crossroad in their lives, and that this is not uncommon, and that we're always making choices that will affect us, often in ways we can't foresee," he said

Not everybody in the community was on board with this non-traditional sentence. Edward Brown, an innkeeper at Bread Loaf during the School of English, had his doubts about the efficacy about the punishment. "I, for one, didn't like the idea of having writing as a punishment because it taught them that writing is something you do when you're bad or wrong," he said. Brown also noted that the cabin's destruction led to fundraising efforts by the college and Paul Muldoon to endow the property and help restore it.

Despite some pushback, however, Parini said that he thinks that this restorative justice practice was effective. He notes that before his class, some of the perpetrators did not know who Robert Frost was. He also remembers being surprised by the amount of press coverage his class received at the time. "I was a bit startled by the presence of reporters, who sat at the back of the room and spread the story. On the Associated Press wire it went around the world," he said. "I think it was a big human interest story. Even the New York Times ran an editorial about this event."

For Parini, though, his role in teaching these students about the importance of Frost and his poetry was personal.

"For me, the Frost House and cabin on the property are a sacred place. I wrote a biography of Frost, and continue to read and teach Frost every year," he said. "I live in his poetry, which informs the world around me here in Vermont. So the fact that Frost lived here, and was part of Middlebury, where I've been teaching for nearly four decades, means a great deal to me."



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA

Ten years ago, teenagers broke into a cabin once owned by Robert Frost (above). The subsquent party held on the property led to $10,000 in property damage and a court-mandated poetry class taught by Jay Parini.

Chellis House Invites Speaker to Tell Personal Story of Human Trafficking

By KAYLA LICHTMAN
Contributing Writer

A black and white picture of a young blonde girl at the beach faced the audience throughout Barbara Amaya's presentation about human trafficking in Dana Auditorium on Nov. 29. The girl in the picture is a younger version of Amaya, whose lecture was co-hosted by Stop Traffick and the Chellis House to shed light on the issue of human trafficking.

To put her own experience into perspective, Amaya began her presentation by informing audience members that there is no "stereotypical victim of human trafficking"— rather, it occurs across ages, genders, and locations. She also noted that there are roughly 300,000 child sex-trafficking victims in the US and that the average pimp makes $200,000 per year per victim. Trafficking, she emphasized, boils down to "vulnerabilities being preyed upon" and "supply and demand."

With that, she began to tell her story. Amaya ran away from an abusive home at age twelve.

"I fell through the cracks," she said. "No one had the time to listen to me." In D.C., she met a woman who sold Amaya to a pimp who took her to New York. Trafficking, she told the crowd, means "turning a human being into a commodity."

Once in New York, the pimp had another girl show her the rules of "the life." Each night, no matter the circumstances, Amaya had to bring in a certain amount of money or else her pimp, "Moses," became violent, at one point beating her with a wire coat hanger.

"They think they can do whatever they want with you because they bought you," she said. Amaya was taught to follow certain rules, such as to always give the police a fake name, address, and age any time she was arrested.

"I was told to tell the police I was twenty-one, but to tell people who had sought my body I was younger," she said. "No one ever asked for an older person."

A few years later into her young life, Amaya became addicted to heroin. By the time she was around the age of 15, she had been arrested so many times that she was eventually sent to Rikers Island Prison. Unlike the other times she was arrested, Amaya came clean to the police about her real age and situation. Horrified, the police promised to reunite her with her parents. Her parents came all the way from Virginia, only to miss her by five or ten minutes when her trafficker came to pick her up instead.

Amaya said that when she eventually left New York, she didn't really know how old she was. She checked into a rehabilitation center, where the intake person "treated me like a human being... I didn't remember the last time anybody treated me like a human being." There, she discovered her sister was living in Philadelphia and the people at the center helped her reconnect with her family.

"I didn't tell anybody what happened to me," she said. "Nobody even asked me."

Years later, sitting at home listening to the TV, Amaya heard a news story about gang members trafficking young women. The reporters began talking about recruitment techniques that the traffickers used, and Amaya recognized those techniques as the same ones that had been used on her when she was twelve. It was a moment of self-identification.

"[Until then] I never thought I was a victim," she said.

Amaya said that moment changed everything, and she began to share her story. She built a website and started speaking in front of audiences. She is now the author of a book called "Nobody's Girl: A Memoir of Lost Innocence, Modern Day Slavery & Transformation", as well as the 2014 winner of the James B. Hunter Human Rights Award. Amaya currently works actively with legislators to push for anti-trafficking legislation such as the D.C. Safe Harbor Bill, as well as with law enforcement, developing a five-module training program meant to help police officers view victims of trafficking as victims, not criminals.

Amaya said that her current work was about "awareness, education and then legislation," and that she hoped by putting a face to the issue, her audiences would stop thinking that trafficking only happened in a "far off land somewhere" and confront the realities of the human trafficking trade here in the United States.

Spanish Professor Showcases Research on Mayan Language and Culture

By BENJY RENTON
Contributing Writer

Students, faculty, and community members gathered on Nov. 29 to hear Assistant Professor of Spanish Professor Brandon Baird present on his work as part of the Carol Rifelj Faculty Lecture Series. In a talk titled "Unequivocally Authentic: Mayan Language and Identity in Modern Guatemala," Baird presented on his recent linguistic research in Guatemala and the contemporary implications of his results.

Baird's was the last faculty lecture of the fall semester, and many of his students were in attendance. A Middlebury faculty member since the fall of 2014, he is currently teaching classes in the Spanish and Linguistics departments. His research interests include Hispanic linguistics, Mayan linguistics, phonetics, phonology, bilingualism, and sociolinguistics. Next semester, Baird will be teaching two courses titled "Bilingualism in the Spanish-Speaking World" and "The Sounds of Language: Introduction to Phonetics and Phonology."

Baird posted the question of how languages are lost among native populations and used bilingualism, or the action of picking up another language, as a bridge toward language loss. For many Spanish-speaking immigrants to the U.S., for example, the first generation of the family is monolingual in the native language, the second generation is bilingual in the native language and English and the third generation is monolingual in English. "Grandparents and grandchildren may not speak the same language," Baird said. Discussing language dominance, he used the term diglossia, which he defined as when two languages are used under different conditions within a community. Individuals tend to be more dominant in one language than the other, and may use one language at home and the other at work, for example.

According to Baird, he is often asked if anyone still speaks the Mayan language. Contrary to common misconception, he explained, there are 32 distinct Mayan languages, 30 of which are still spoken today. Baird's research focuses on K'iche' language, which one million people in Guatemala speak. Baird summarized the recent language policies of the country. In 2003, the Law on National Languages declared Spanish as the official language of Guatemala but recognized the importance of indigenous languages to national identity. However, according to Baird, the law has not been effective in promoting and preserving indigenous languages.

"These people aren't able to use their language in certain necessary aspects of their lives," he said, referring to the lack of interpreters in the national court system, among other critical social services.

Baird's research was conducted in two Guatemalan communities, the rural area of Nahualá and the urban area of Cantel. Using quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews as methods of data collection, Baird sought to discover linguistic correlations with language dominance. The quantitative results showed that the population of the more urban area of Cantel tends to be more Spanish dominant, while Nahualá tends to be more K'iche' dominant.

"The younger [the people] are, the greater tendency there is for them to be Spanish dominant," Baird said. While many residents speak K'iche' at home with family, they tend to use Spanish at school and work, drawing attention to a diglossia between Spanish and K'iche'.

The qualitative results illustrated the value of bilingualism and a motivation among the residents to continue speaking K'iche'.

"Someone who speaks two languages is worth two people," a Cantel resident commented in the survey. There is an important value assigned to learning Spanish for job opportunities and to communicate with people such as doctors and judges. Finally, the results demonstrated a fear of the loss of K'iche' language and culture, especially as other cultural traditions shift to adapt to the modern era. For example, Baird said that men in Guatemala tend not to wear traditional clothing anymore.

Baird concluded his lecture with a hopeful outlook. While there is a diglossia between Spanish and K'iche', members of the population have been promoting their native culture and pushing the native language in sports and music. Baird brought his findings to an American context by drawing a parallel between the situation in Guatemala and the current attitudes towards English as the national language of the U.S in today's political climate. While immigrants in the U.S. find English to be very vital to their new lives, he said, they also express the necessity to preserve their native languages.

"You can't shut off their language and expect [people] to do better," he said.

Abenaki Chief Lectures on Contemporary Native Life in Vermont

By MIGUEL ESPINOSA
Features Editor

Don Stevens, Chief of the Nulhegan Abenaki Tribe, delivered a lecture at the Robert A. Jones Conference Room on Monday, Nov. 27. His talk focused on "contemporary life as a person of indigenous heritage" in Vermont, and touched upon topics such as the history of the Abenaki Tribe in the region, and their relationship with the government and local communities. The Spanish class called Images of America invited Stevens as part of a final project. The talk was sponsored by the Departments of American Studies, the Spanish and Portuguese department, the Sociology and Anthropology department, and the Davis Family Library.

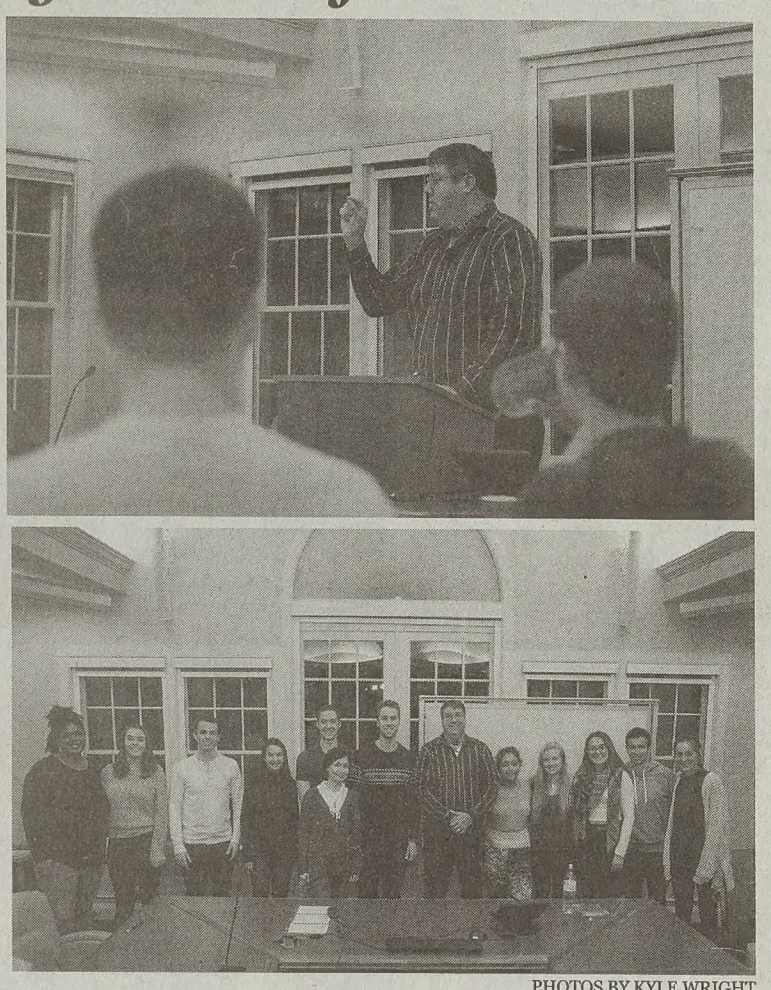
According to the website of the University of Vermont, Don Stevens is an "award-winning leader, businessman, writer, and lecturer." In 2006, Stevens was selected by former Vermont governor Jim Douglas (R) to chair the Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs, where Stevens served for two terms. As the leading spokesman for the Abenaki people, Stevens fought for the acquisition of tribal land, which the tribe had not had ownership rights over for the last 200 years. According to the website Abenakitribe.org, Stevens works for the executive branch of the Abenaki government, where his responsibilities include maintaining "the day-to-day operations, security, and services of the tribe."

Stevens began the lecture with the history of the Abenakis. He spoke of how they intermarried with the French after the French arrived in North America, and how they fought alongside them in wars. Around the late 17th century, many Abenakis began emigrating to Canada, which was under French rule at the time. Stevens talked about the Vermont eugenics laws in the 20th century that targeted the poor, the disabled, French-Canadians, and Native Americans. According to Ian Dowbiggin, an author who wrote a book on the subject, approximately 3400 Abenaki women were sterilized in the United States between 1973 and 1976, with no evidence documenting their consent to the procedures. Stevens grandmother was able to avoid sterilization.

Eventually, in 2006, the state of Vermont officially recognized the Abanaki as a People. In 2011, Vermont recognized two bands of the Abanaki: the Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk-Abenaki, and the El Nu Abenaki Tribe. The Abenaki tribe currently claims membership to both the Seven Nations of Canada, and the Wabanaki Confederacy in the United States.

Stevens spoke about the challenges facing the current Abenaki community. The biggest challenge, Stevens said, is keeping children interested in their heritage. Stevens said that if future generations do not remain invested in Abenaki culture, the tribe could run the risk of becoming extinct, since they only hold a finite amount of resources, and do not own any reservations. Because of this, many Abenakis, who are dispersed throughout New England, travel long hours to attend monthly meetings in Vermont. Another challenge Stevens mentioned is that the state of Vermont is also not required to teach about the Abenakis in schools, and no one is working full time to promote the Abenaki culture, or to obtain grants.

"The lecture was a good way for us to learn about how we could have an impact on the Native community as far as policy goes, but also just for us to learn about a culture that is close to us physically that we really don't know about," said Rae Aaron '19.5, who helped to facilitate the process of inviting Stevens to campus. "Going into [the lecture], we were just hoping that the community would be able to access somebody that it normally wouldn't be able to talk to. I think that it was really successful in that we had a wide variety of people attend for their own personal interests."



PHOTOS BY KYLE WRIGHT

Chief of the Nulhegan Abenaki Tribe Don Stevens came and spoke about the modern challenges indigenous peoples face in Vermont on Monday Nov, 27. He was invited by the Spanish class "Images of America" (pictured above) as part of their final project.

Campaign Against Gender-Based Violence

By EMMA PATCH
Features Editor

The Sixteen Days Campaign Against Gender-Based Sexual Violence began on International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, Nov. 25, and will end on International Human Rights Day, Dec. 10. Each day that passes between November 25 and December 10 represents the movement towards the understanding that perpetrating any form of violence against women is, at its core, an issue of human rights.

In honor of this campaign, the Chellis House held an event Tuesday Nov. 28 at which students, staff, and faculty read and discussed passages from Juana Gamero de Coca's monograph "Sexualidad, Violencia y Cultura" and from Julia Alvarez's novel "In The Time of the Butterflies."

In the reading of de Coca's monograph, audience members were moved by the eloquence and power of her writing, which explored a wide array of topics, including the societal limits of democracy human notions of romantic love. The United Nations declared a Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women in honor of Minou, Patria, and Maria Teresa Mirabel, whose activism to bring down Rafael Trujillo's dictatorship were the subject of Alvarez's book. The discussions that followed readings from both of these works gave listeners the opportunity to process and explore their reactions to the texts as well as engage with the readers themselves.

In reading English translations of passages audience members felt compelled to discuss the role of translation in reading a text. This discussion of the literary works themselves reflected the elevated importance of the topics covered, the notion that sharing these stories and growing the audience is in itself a profoundly important form of activism. In gathering to listen to "Sexualidad, Violencia y Cultura" and "In The Time of the Butterflies", attendees are were of the indisputable need to expose the reality and voice truth.

"It's very important to name things by name to give the message that this is happening," said Marissel Hernández-Romero, a professor of Spanish and Portuguese.

After reading the epilogue from "Sexualidad, Violencia y Cultura," the room sat in silence for a few seconds. One woman was crying. The weight of the text was definitely felt throughout the room.

"That's Juana's passion...and I love that," said Gloria Gonzalez Zenteno, a professor of Spanish. "I just found that so eloquent...because I don't know what genre to call a book like this because it's like a book of essays...but it's so personal and so burning with passion...and I just found it so effective."

The United Nations has made it their mission to both demonstrate the gravity of addressing gender violence on its own as well as linking it with the human rights movement. Here at Middlebury, the 16 days of activism to end gender violence is manifesting itself through meaningful, heartfelt and powerful conversation and spreading awareness through sharing the voices of others, taking time to reflect and call upon our peers to gather and participate.

There are several upcoming events to look out for in the remaining days of this campaign. On Friday Dec. 8, the Chellis House will take a stroll through the trails around campus for those seeking a breath of fresh air and the chance to participate in what they call "Walking Through Resistance". The group will leave from Chellis House at 12 p.m., though in case of rain, snow or weather below 32 degrees Fahrenheit, they will meet at the indoor track.

MCAB: The Week Ahead

FRIDAY

TALK WITH JOURNALIST SIDNEY RITTENBERG

December 8 at 4:30 pm in Davis Library 105A.

SUNDAY

YOGA

December 8 from 6:45-7:45pm in Mitchell Green Room

TUESDAY

STRESSBUSTER PIZZA TRUCK

December 12 at 2 pm Wilson Terrace, McCullough Student Center

Grammy Nominations Arrive

By NATE OBBARD
Contributing Writer

The Grammy Award nominations are out, and some of the heavy-hitters are defying precedent and creating a lineup for the ages, notable first and foremost for being by far the most diverse cast of nominees in Grammy history. Although this year's ceremony will not escape the politics and populism that have always hallmarked the awards show, it represents the changing landscape of music and what is appreciated in our culture.

BET.COM

RAPPER JAY-Z HAD THE MOST NOMINATIONS THIS YEAR, LEADING WITH EIGHT.

For the first time since 1999, no nominees for the category "Album of the Year" (arguably the most prestigious of the 84) are white males. Childish Gambino, Kendrick, Bruno Mars, and Jay-Z are all men of color, and Lorde is, of course, not a man. The diversity of this group perhaps reflects a musical, and more broadly, social landscape that is rebuking the idea that the nominees need to reflect the demographics of the majority of the voting body. The rising prominence of previously-shoved-aside voices in music is a promising step for the industry, and hopefully not merely a fluke but a picture of things to come. This is also apparent in the 'Best New Artist' category, composed of two women and two men of color, withonly one white nominee among the four. Among categories for single tracks, "Despacito" became the first Spanish-language song to grab a nomination.

While this diversity in the music industry lags a few years behind wider, recent cultural trends, their relative prominence as "the" music awards ceremony is a way to take the temperature of the music landscape. As of now, things are looking positive.

Here is what I predict for some of the major categories:

Album of the Year –"DAMN." "4:44" has received its share of backlash from hip-hop aficionados, "24K Magic" feels like the obligatory mega-successful pop album that will not win, and it seems doubtful that "Melodrama" has more momentum than "Pure Heroine" did upon release. The logical sleeper is "Awaken, My Love!" which may get quite a bit of credit for its unique sound and artistic defiance of expectations but will likely receive flak for the same reasons. "DAMN." is not Kendrick's best, but it is a near-universally loved album that combines innovation with Lamar's familiar and peerless sound.

Record of The Year – "Redbone." "Stay woke" just about sums up the character of these awards, and voters' self-awareness will likely drive them to this choice. "24K" and "Despacito" are not as artistically inspiring, and "The Story of O.J." and "HUMBLE" are not even the best tracks on their respective albums.

Best New Artist – Khalid. Lil Uzi Vert should win, but this nomination is a year too late given the timing of his explosion. Alessia Cara seems unlikely because, in my opinion, she doesn't have a very distinct sound, but Julia Michaels would not be too shocking either.

Best Alternative Music Album – "Humanz." The National and Arcade Fire do not really have any business being here this year, since both have accomplished far better in the past. Father John Misty just feels like a bit of a surprising inclusion – the nomination is his award here. "American Dream" should win, but LCD Soundsystem does not strike me as very Grammy-friendly.

Best Rap Album – "DAMN." It is this or "4:44." That said, "Flower Boy" deserves it the most by far. Not to mention arguably the most notable snub occurred here, as A Tribe Called Quest's "We Got It From Here... Thank You 4 Your Service" is nowhere to be seen. Its exclusion is not the end of the world, but maybe serves as a reminder that the awards shouldn't be taken too seriously, nor are they the best arbiters of culture.

BLACKBIRD TAKES OFF

By DAVID GOSSENS
Staff Writer

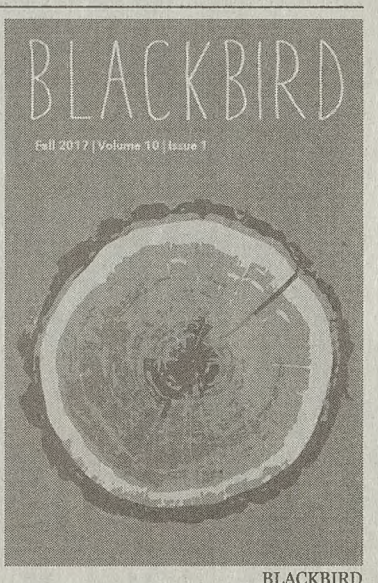
The Blackbird Fall 2017 issue came out on Thursday, Nov. 30 at the organization's launch party in the Gamut room. There were several pizzas from American Flatbread, an ample amount of refreshments and the music of 10" Personal Pizza to celebrate the occasion. Some attendees grouped around the couches and chatted while others sat by the band and read the new issue together. Editors-in-chief Maya London-Southern '20 and Zoe Harris '20 brought several of the contributing authors on stage, giving the audience the pleasure of hearing the pieces out loud. All readers performed beautifully. The poetry was thoughtful, stylistic and well-delivered and speaking them out loud gave them life.

The editors were pleased with the event, which managed to maintain a chill and friendly vibe throughout.

"I think this is one of the best turn-outs we've seen for a launch," said Nick Kaye '17.5, another of the editors-in-chief and a seasoned Blackbird veteran. "It's great to see students take a break from finals-season hell to get jazzed about art and literature."

"I am so proud of the students who put themselves out there and shared their work with us," said Harris. "I hope Blackbird helps make people more aware of the vibrant arts community on campus."

The new issue features 66 pages of the finest student drawings, poetry, prose, paintings and photography. The cover illustration depicts the inner rings of a lying log. The significance of the drawing is meant to be ambiguous, though Kaye, who designed the cover, suggests it could have something to do with the layers of depth that hide within the pages of Blackbird. The magazine received a larger amount of submissions than usual this semester which allowed the editors to choose a variety of different viewpoints and tones throughout the issue, ultimately achieving this sense of depth.



BLACKBIRD

After the poetry readings, London-Southern and Harris honored Kaye for his contribution to Blackbird. Kaye has been involved with the magazine since his freshman year, but this semester's issue is his last, as he will graduate in February. Once Kaye graduates, London-Southern and Harris will officially take over the next issue.

"Having a role in every step of the publication process made the experience so much more exciting and the finished product of the magazine and the launch party all the more gratifying," said London-Southern. "I'm so happy I got to work with such a great team, especially Nick, who has been on Blackbird since his first semester and was a greater teacher to Zoe and me."

The editors note that they are always looking for new submissions and there is no cap on the number of submissions a student can send in.

"We want the magazine to serve as a microcosm of the entire campus' diverse creative output," Kaye said. "I hope to see more and more students submitting work to help us accomplish this goal."

Love, Loneliness and Loss Take Center Stage

Middletown Meets Middlebury

By SARAH BOYLE
Senior Writer

MARK EVANCHO
Miguel Castillo '17.5 and Sam Martin '19 perform in Middletown.

Last weekend, the Middlebury College Department of Theatre presented Middletown, a play written by Will Ano and directed by Alex Draper '88. The play centers on a generic small town and the interlocking lives of its inhabitants. Each character considers what it means to be happy in the world and understand their relation to the people and places around them.

Main characters Mary Swanson and John Dodge bond over their similar loneliness. The characters remark about their lives, what makes them anxious in the middle of the night and what they think of their futures. Through their relationship the audience can see what life in Middletown is truly like and what goes on behind closed doors.

A wide array of supporting characters add to the story of these two characters, such as a police officer, played by Connor Wright '18, who opens the show with a horrible example of police brutality and an upbeat librarian, played by Shannon Gibbs '18, who is simultaneously wise and unaware. Additionally, a character listed as The Mechanic speaks with many characters throughout the play and acts as the perceptive outsider in every moment he appears.

"It's intended to provoke thought about life, death," said cast member Stephanie Miller '20 when asked about the play's message. "[It's meant] to make people think about their own lives... their perspectives and the cycles of everything."

Life and death certainly rest at the center of the play as John Dodge attempts suicide on the same day that Mary Swanson goes into labor with her first child. The other characters of the play serve to display the moments between those two large life events and the various trials and tribulations that a person can experience during that time.

The fact that Middletown was founded on land originally inhabited by Native Americans also provides a significant foundation to the play. Various characters mention this fact and brush it off nonchalantly, but it calls the audience to see the faults in these characters' thinking. The company note mentions that, "since many such communities have been wiped off of maps and out of history books, and since little is taught on the reality of the Native American, we wanted to make sure we were respectful in the way we approached the material relating to the history and culture of the original inhabitants of our community here at Middlebury."

Towards the end of the play, The Mechanic wears traditional Native American clothing and performs a dance. In preparation for this part of the play, the company worked with Dancing Earth Creations, a dance group that aims to "support Indigenous dance and related arts." Additionally, the cast, "had the privilege of working with Chief Don Stevens, of the Nulhegan Abenaki Tribe, who shared his knowledge and experience, and granted [them] permission to be on the land of his ancestors."

Costume designer Iram Asghar '18 worked on this play for her 700 credit. She conducted research in the town of Middlebury by interviewing and photographing townspeople in order to ensure that her designs "came from a real place rather than one of stereotypes and assumptions."

Asghar noted that her work for this play "necessitated navigating cultural appropriation and bridging the diverse backgrounds of the actors with the history and cultures represented in the play."

In the costume designer's note, Asghar details how Chief Don Stevens and Teresa Le Maitre helped her "understand their culture." Additionally, she thanked them for creating traditional jewelry for the performances.

Middletown represents the multi-faceted nature of many American towns. In viewing the relation that the characters have to their history and each other, members of the Middlebury community were encouraged to think about their surroundings and how they interact with their neighbors.

MARK EVANCHO
Madeleine Russell '19 and Noah Liebmiller '17.5 share a moment onstage

The Librarian Is In

By KATRINA SPENCER
Senior Columnist

Literatures and cultures librarian Katrina Spencer is liaison to the Anderson Freeman Center, the Arabic department, the French department, the Gender Sexuality & Feminist Studies (GSFS Program), the Language Schools, Linguistics and the Spanish & Portuguese departments. These affiliations are reflected in her reading choices. "While I am a very slow reader, I'm a very critical reader," she says.

Pages: 43

"Peluda" ("Hairy") Melissa Lozada-Oliva

DAVIS FAMILY LIBRARY

THE WHAT

"Peluda" is a book of poems written by a young woman who is of both Guatemalan and Colombian descent, according to the narrative voice of her poetry. Lozada-Oliva uses body hair as a medium to talk about a slew of fraught topics: origin, immigration, self-love/hate, harmful and exclusionary beauty paradigms, interracial romance, the discrepancies between intergenerational values, socio-economic class and more. Hers is free verse, so if you're looking for rhyme and meter in your poetic preferences, this will not be the place to go. But if you are looking for metaphor, subversion of popularly accepted behavior and stories that center around brown-skinned people, you have got a winner. Reading her work is like reading Sandra Cisneros' 1984 "The House On Mango Street," but in the 21st century and for a contemporary audience.

THE WHY

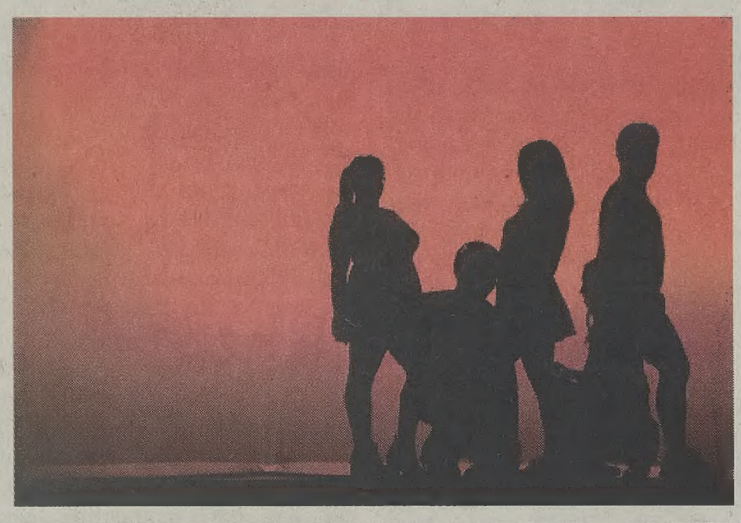
My Facebook feed introduced me to this poet, specifically a post via Button Poetry (as was the case with Blythe Baird's "Give Me A God I Can Relate To"). As a hirsute woman (TMI), the title of the work, "Hairy," called to me. I have had a mustache since before I can remember and more struggles with hair than I care to mention here. In a

world that keeps telling me that what my body does naturally and without provocation is wrong and undesirable, the idea that a writer would publicly acknowledge her "private" contentions feels awe-inspiring. These conversations are often had in dark corners and hushed tones. I am impressed by the bravery and the many ways in which such a benign and common topic can be used to meaningfully forward discussions of gender politics.

Rating: 4/5 cardigans

Lozada-Oliva's work demonstrates multiple moments of sheer brilliance and uncanny insight. She is an author to watch; I trust her writings will continue to evolve and expand and I will not be surprised when her name appears on a best-seller's list. However, some of the poems included in this collection are so fantastic, in the literal sense of the word, that they are inaccessible. As the author continues to publish, I trust she will be more exacting in excluding excesses that make the compilation longer but do not necessarily advance the piece's themes, potency and goals. See her read her poetry on YouTube in "Yosra Strings Off My Mustache."

ISO Show Takes Audiences Around the World



The International Students' Organization's 2017 Show on Dec 2 featured dance, music and poetry acts representing countries and regions from all over the world, such as the Ukraine, Vietnam, Korea, South Asia, parts of the Afican continent, Brazil and many more. The performances were vibrant, exciting and inspiring and matched the cosmopolitan nature of the school.

Clockwise from top left, Ukrainian Dance, Timeless Vietnam, Red Velvet Kpop, and Midd Masti. Photo credit to Silvia Cantu

DON'T MISS THIS

Film and Media Culture Fall Screening

Join the Department of Film and Media Culture for an evening showcasing student work produced in Sight and Sound II and 3D Computer Animation. Free

12/7, Thursday, 3 & 8 p.m., Sunderland Landuage Center, Dana Auditorium

Jazz Showcase

Some of the College's top jazz instrumentalists and singers will present selections from their term's work. It's a celebration of the music that's been called America's National Treasure. Free

12/7, Thursday, 7 p.m., MCA, Lower Lobby

Jim Blair, "The Past is Prologue"

In 1970 Blair photographed the relatively "new" issue of ecological crisis for National Geographic magazine. He has continued to cover the topic all over the planet. Using photographs from many stories he discusses "how we have made some progress but are still always playing catch up." Free

12/8, Friday, 12:30 a.m., MCA, Room 125

SPORTS

Women's Hockey Splits Double-Dipper

Follow 3–0 Shutout Win with 4–3 OT Loss

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TO 7–0 AFTER 3 WINS

MIDDLEBURY ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Women's basketball moved to 7–0 for this first time in 16 seasons with three non-conference wins. With wins tonight and tomorrow night, the Panthers can tie their best start since the 2001–2002 when they started 9–0.

B6

SWIMMING AND DIVING HIT THE POOL AT AMHERST

MIDDLEBURY ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Middlebury saw tough competition against ranked Amherst men's and women's squads.

B2

SQUASH TEAMS START OFF SEASON AT HAMILTON

MIDDLEBURY ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Both teams got off to strong starts 9–0 victories over Hamilton. The women's squad played a second match against St. Lawrence and got the same result with a 9–0 victory.

B7

PLAYER AND TEAM OF THE WEEK

B2

RIGAS' AND CASE'S CRYSTAL BALL OF NFL PICKS WISDOM

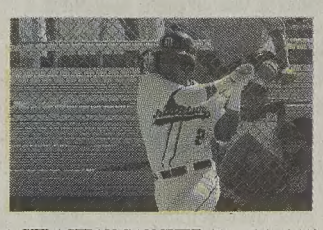
B2

EDITORS' PICKS

B3

3. ETHAN BRADY (16–12, .571)

4. ROB ERICKSON (52–49, .515)



5. SEBASTIAN SANCHEZ (50–61 .450)

EMMA STAPLETON

Middlebury prepares to take the ice before its game against Connecticut College on Saturday, Dec. 2, at Kenyon Arena. The Panthers lost to the Camels in overtime 4–3 on Saturday, but beat the Camels 3–0 on Friday to split the weekend doubleheader. With the split, the Panthers and the Camel remained tied in the Nescac standings at 3–1, falling into second place behind Hamilton who is 4–0.

YOUNG TURNS IN BIG WEEKEND AGAINST CAMELS

By SEBASTIAN SANCHEZ

Last Friday and Saturday, Dec. 2 and 3, the No. 7 Middlebury Women's Hockey blanked No. 8Connecticut College in Friday's contest while losing an overtime heartbreaker the next day on Saturday. The Panthers move to 3–3 with only a game against Castleton remaining before the Christmas break. While they sit .500, all the team's losses came to opponents ranked in the top 10.

In the first contest the Panthers won 3–0. Neither team scored in the opening period, although Elizabeth Wulf '18 and Katherine Jackson '19 had a two-on-one opportunity. As they skated with an advantage toward the Camels' goal Jackson's backhand attempt was deflected and Maddie Leidt '21's rebound shot was swatted away by the Camels' keeper Bailey Mertz. Conn. College had a chance to capitalize on three separate power-plays, but they could not find the net.

Heading into the second period, the Panthers took the lead when they capitalized on a five-on-three powerplay opportunity. The dynamic duo of Jessica Young '18 and Maddie Winslow '18 connected when Young skated to the right side of the ice, touched a pass to Winslow on the left post where she deflected the puck into the back of the net — the first second-period goal allowed by the Camels all season.

The Panthers solidified their lead in the third stanza with two insurance goals. Jackson recorded the first of them for her team-leading fifth goal of the season when she one-timed a pass from Winslow. Young added to the lead when she picked up her own rebound in front of the net, circled the net and fired the puck past the goalie.

Lin Han '20 made 22 saves in her second shutout of the season, including a sprawling save to her right and several other incredible stops to keep the Camels at bay. The Panthers improved to 3–2, while Conn. College suffered their first loss of the season.

"We responded well in the third period and played our best period of the game," said Wulf after Friday's matchup went final. "Conn. College is a good game and always tough to play. Going into the third up 1–0, we knew the next goal would be huge so we did a good job of putting the game away in the third scoring two goals. We also stayed out of the box in the third which helped," she said.

Saturday's contest was a thriller, as the Panthers got down basically at puck-drop and then had to dig themselves out of a two goal hole.

Just two minutes into the opening period, Conn. College got on the board when a Camel beat a Middlebury defender behind the net and connected with a teammate, blasting the puck into the net for a 1–0 lead. The Camels doubled the score when a backhanded feed from Kaylyn Paiva was connected by Elena Gualtieri.

Ellie Barney '21 responded with her first career goal, assisted by team captain Janka Hlinka '18 and Young. Trailing by one, the Panthers controlled the puck for the three minutes, winning several face-offs, including one by Hlinka to set up the game tying goal. Leidt scored, marking her second goal of the series thanks to a beautiful assist by Young and knotting the score with five minutes left in the first.

With 12:25 left in the second stanza, Middlebury took a 3–2 lead when Leidt centered a pass to Young, who one-timed the feed from the top of the left faceoff circle into the back of the net.

Conn. College mustered an equalizing score though when they fought for a rebound off Han's pads and sent it into the back of the net with 6:37 left to play. That score would hold as the contest headed into overtime with the game tied at three apiece.

For the first three minutes, the Panthers and Camels battled to possess the puck — a shot by Sidney Portner '21 went wide, Barney blasted the puck towards the Camels' net that was saved by Mertz and a shot by the guests was saved by Han. However, a shot by Kalyn Paiva that was blocked by Han would be rebounded and then passed to Ein Dilon, who tapped the puck inside the net for the clinching goal for the Camels. Middlebury outshot Conn. College 30-28, but Bailey Mertz picked up 27 stops for win.

"Just like [Wulf] said, we played our best period on Friday at the end of the game," said Hlinka. "It shows that we can figure out how to regroup when we're not playing well and I think that is very important. Conn is always a good game to play and managing to get that next important goal in the third was critical. As for Saturday, we did do a better job of staying out of the box, but also getting more shots on net."

The Panthers return to action on Dec. 9 against Castleton for their last home game before Christmas break and a trip to Amherst College for an away Nescac series.

EMMA STAPLETON

Ellie Barney '21 rips a shot in Middlebury's 4–3 overtime loss to Connecticut College on Saturday, Dec. 2. Several first-years have contributed for the Panthers thus far this season, including Barney, who has scored once and assisted on another goal, and Madie Leidt '21, who has scored three goals and assisted on two more.

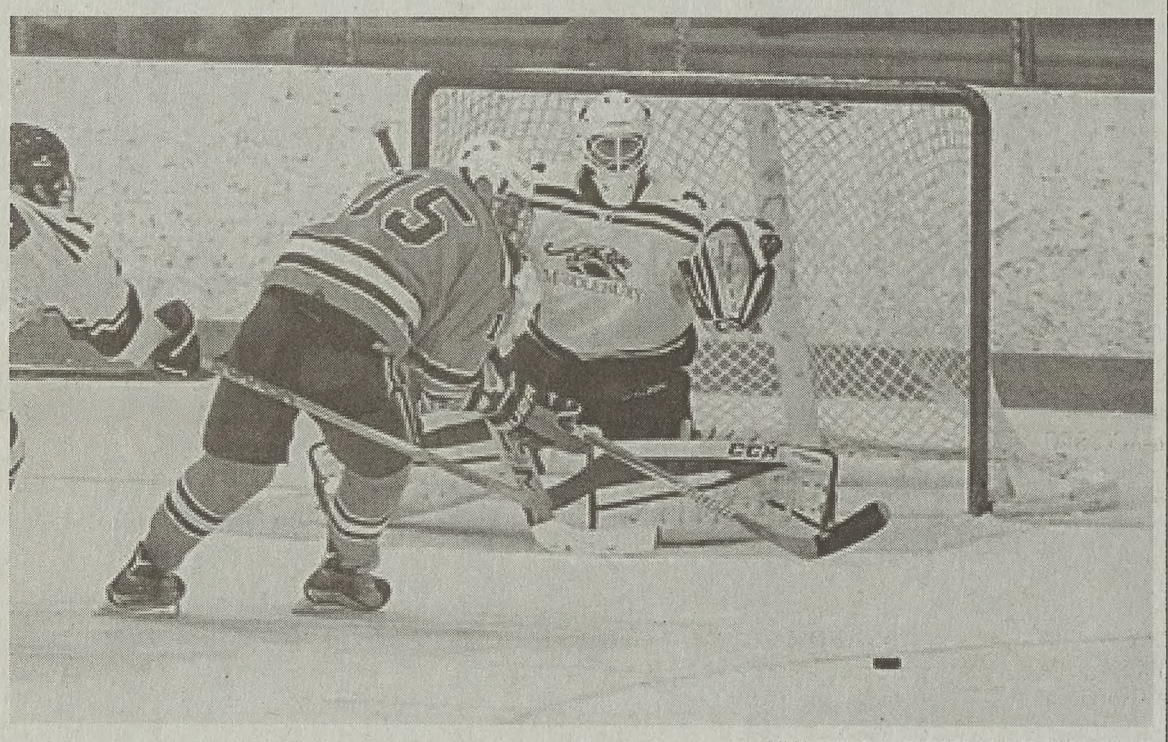
Panther Team of the Week:
Women's Basketball

MIDDLEBURY ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Betsy Knox '20 taking a shot. She racked up 23 points and nine boards against Rensselaer, followed by a 13 point effort that included a key OT three against Colby-Sawyer.

The Panthers managed to overcome a 13 point deficit and a late fourth-quarter push by Colby-Sawyer to send the game to overtime. Once there, the Panthers dominated and outscored the Chargers 10–3 in the overtime period. The turning point in overtime was when Betsy Knox '20 and Alex Huffman '19 each made threes within a minute of each other, which took the wind out of Colby-Sawyer's sails. Maya Davis '20 led all players with 14 points and 14 rebounds, good for her first double-double of the season. Their 6–0 record marks the team's best start since the 2010–11 season when they also started 6–0..

Panther Player of the Week:
Stephen Klein '18



MIDDLEBURY ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Stephen Klein '18 and the men's hockey defense shut out Tufts in a 2–0 win on Saturday, Dec. 2 at Tufts. Klein saved 37 shots in Middlebury's first win of the season and earned his first shutout of the season as well. His last shutout came last season on Jan. 27 against Tufts, when they Panthers defeated the Jumbos 1–0.

SWIMMERS AND DIVERS KEEP TRYING TO BUILD MOMENTUM

By LAUREN BOYD

Competing on the road against Amherst this past weekend, the Middlebury men's and women's swimming and diving teams both suffered their third losses of the young season. The Mammoth women's team defeated the Panthers 167-122, while on the men's side, the Mammoth men's team came out of Pratt Pool victorious, 165-102.

Frances VanderMeer '20 came out of her third straight meet with another individual first-place finish for the Panthers, good for her fourth individual win on the year. Afterward, although the team score came up a little short, she nevertheless remained optimistic about what lies ahead.

"I think all of our work in preseason really set us up for a good season," she said. " Everyone is very dedicated to the team and has been working really hard. Paying attention to the little things makes a big difference as well.

"We also have an incredible team dynamic, which makes it easy get excited and race well. We're looking to have a strong end of the winter season and come off of our 10-day training trip with an even better endurance base. This will be especially important as we head into j-term, where we have a meet every weekend."

Kristin Karpowicz '19 also claimed an individual title for the women's squad in the 200-yard individual medley (2:16.93).

Stephanie Andrews '18 pulled out a solid 25.24 second 50-free race, good for a second-place finish. Kathryn Bullen '18 found her groove in the 200-yard individual medley, coming in second behind Karpowicz in a time of 2:22.21.

VanderMeer also had a hand in the 400-yard freestyle relay victory, which consisted of VandeerMeer, Maya Gomez '20, Andrews and Erin Kelly '21. The team touched the wall in a time of 3:42.84.

Elissa DeNunzio '18 claimed the 3-meter diving title for the third straight meet with 236.03 points. DeNunzio also placed second in the 1-meter with 241.65 points.

For the Panther men's side, Andrew Buchser '18, Connor McCormick '18 and Jack Dowling '18 registered a first-place finish in their individual races. A relay consisting of Cory Jalbert '21, Keegan Pando '21, Will Pannos '20 and Brendan Leech '19 claimed the first place-title in the 400-yard freestyle event.

McCormick clocked in at 2:01.67 in the 200-yard individual medley for the Panthers which was good for his second individual first-place finish this season. Buchser completed the 500-yard freestyle in 5:02.37 and found himself atop the podium. Dowling was the third Panther to come out of the pool in an individual event triumphant after he won the 100-yard butterfly in 54.31 seconds.

Jalbert, Pando, Pannos and Leech ended the meet on the high note of tying for first in the 400-yard freestyle relay with a time of 3:20.53.

Alec Wilson '21 (500 frees), Charles Quinn '20 (200 IM), Pannos (100 fly) and Kevin Santoro '21 (200 back) all finished second for the Panthers in their respective events, as well as the other Panther 400-yard relay team, consisting of Dowling, Zack Einhorn '21, Henry Mooers '21 and Nick Handali '20.

Though the Panthers have faced difficult competition thus far, the team is looking forward to this Saturday, Dec. 9, when they are set to host Springfield for their last chance to notch a victory before the calendar year ends.

But some of the Panthers can't help looking beyond that — to the postseason meets that take place in February and March. "On the diving team," said DeNunzio, "we are excited to host the regional championships for the first year. I'm looking forward to our upcoming meets and getting the opportunity to showcase the new dives we have been working hard on so far this season."

But the number one priority for the Panthers, according to DeNunzio? "We're hoping to keep improving our scores to better prepare ourselves for the Nescac meet at the end of the year."

RIGAS' AND CASE'S NFL PICKS

NO @ ATL (-1) Tonight 8:25 ET, NFL o/u: 53.5	Rigas: NO, over Case: NO, under
IND @ BUF NL 1ET, CBS o/u: 40.5	Rigas: BUF, over Case: IND, under
CHI @ CIN (-6.5) 1 ET, FOX o/u: 39.5	Rigas: CIN, under Case: CHI, under
GB @ CLE (+3) 1 ET, FOX o/u: 40.5	Rigas: GB, under Case: GB, under
DAL @ NYG (+4.5) 1 ET, FOX o/u: 42	Rigas: DAL, over Case: NYG, over
OAK @ KC (-3.5) 1 ET, CBS o/u: 47.5	Rigas: KC, under Case: OAK, over
DET @ TB (pick'em) 1 ET, CBS o/u: 40.5	Rigas: TB, under Case: DET, under
MIN @ CAR (+3) 1 ET, CBS o/u: 41	Rigas: MIN, over Case: MIN, under
SF @ HOU (-2) 1 ET, CBS o/u: 42.5	Rigas: HOU, under Case: SF, under
NYJ @ DEN (+1.5) 4:05 ET, CBS o/u: 41	Rigas: DEN, over Case: DEN, under
TEN @ ARZ (+3) 4:05 ET, CBS o/u: 44	Rigas: ARZ, under Case: ARZ, under
WAS @ LAC (-6.5) 4:25 ET, FOX o/u: 46	Rigas: LAC, over Case: WAS, over
PHI @ LAR (-2) 4:25 ET, FOX o/u: 50.5	Rigas: PHI, under Case: PHI, over
SEA @ JAX (-3) 4:25 ET, FOX o/u: 39.5	Rigas: SEA, over Case: SEA, over
BAL @ PIT (-7) SNF, NBC o/u: 41	Rigas: PIT, over Case: BAL, over
NE @ MIA (+11) MNF, ESPN o/u: 47	Rigas: NE, over Case: MIA, over
Overall: Rigas: 133–128 Case: 134–127	**Last Week:** Rigas: 20–10 Case: 15–15

RIGAS AND CASE POST-CHRISTMAS NON-NEW YEAR'S SIX PICKS

Zaxby's Heart of Dallas Bowl
Utah vs. West Virginia
Rigas: West Va. Case: West Va.
Quick Lane Bowl
Duke vs. Northern Illinois
Rigas: Duke Case: NIU
Cactus Bowl
Kansas State vs. UCLA
Rigas: UCLA Case: K-State
Walk-On's Independence Bowl
Southern Miss vs. Florida State
Rigas: Noles Case: Noles
New Era Pinstripe Bowl
Iowa vs. Boston College
Rigas: Iowa Case: Iowa
Foster Farms Bowl
Arizona vs. Purdue
Rigas: Zona Case: Zona
Academy Sports + Outdoors Texas Bowl
Texas vs. Missouri
Rigas: Mizzou Case: Texas
Military Bowl
Virginia vs. Navy
Rigas: Navy Case: Navy
Camping World Bowl
No. 22 Virginia Tech vs. No. 19 Ok St.
Rigas: Ok. St. Case: Ok St.
Valero Alamo Bowl
No. 13 Stanford vs. No. 15 TCU
Rigas: TCU Case: TCU
San Diego County Credit Union Holiday Bowl
No. 18 Wash St. vs. No. 16 Mich St.
Rigas: Mich. St. Case: Wazzu
Belk Bowl
Wake Forest vs. Texas A&M
Rigas: TAMU Case: Wake
Hyundai Sun Bowl
No. 24 NC State vs. Arizona State
Rigas: NC ST. Case: Devils
Franklin American Mortgage Music City Bowl
Kentucky vs. No. 21 Northwestern
Rigas: Go 'Cats Case: Go 'Cats
NOVA Home Loans Arizona Bowl
Utah State vs. New Mexico State
Rigas: Ut. St. Case: NMSU
TaxSlayer Bowl
Louisville vs. No. 23 Mississippi State
Rigas: MS. ST. Case: Louisville
AutoZone Liberty Bowl
Iowa State vs. No. 20 Memphis
Rigas: Cyclones Case: Memphis
Outback Bowl
Michigan vs. South Carolina
Rigas: 'Cocks Case: 'Cocks
Citrus Bowl Presented by Overton's
No. 14 Notre Dame vs. No. 17 LSU
Rigas: ND Case: LSU

GREAT EIGHT

RANKING **TEAM** Case's Court

1 **Women's Basketball**
They have their deepest team and are off to their best start in nearly a decade. They play No. 24 Claremont on their west coast swing at the end of December which will be a good measuring stick before Nescac play begins.

2 **Women's Hockey**
Their only loses have come to top-10 teams. Plus they seem to be just getting started. Look for them to rack up w's in the first three weeks on January when their slate gets (slightly) easier.

3 **Squash**
Both teams are off to good starts and face a big test at the squash center on Sat. at 6 p.m. against No. 10 Dartmouth.

4 **Men's Hockey**
They got a win under their belts as they continue the rebuild.

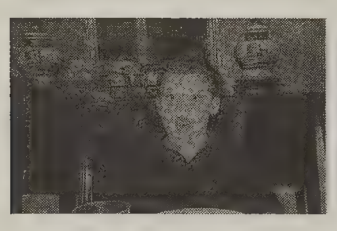
5 **Swimming & Diving**
After the Amherst meet last weekend, the teams wrap up the 2017 portion of their schedule this Saturday at the Nat against Springfield.

6 **Caroline Bartlett '19**
Bartlett was awarded the Vermont Alpine Racing Association's Alpine Skier of the year award in October. Sometimes the sports section's carrier pigeons get lost and we have to be the last to break the news.

7 **CFP Selections**
Good choices. And for the sake of David Dennis '18 and every non-Ohio St. fan out there, they did us a solid and took Bama.

8 **Waddle and Silvy Show**
The week leading up to Thanksgiving, Chicago's best sports show on the radio filled in for Golic and Wingo. All they needed was Mark Giangreco and it would have been the best thing since ...well I don't know...Slow week in Midd sports.

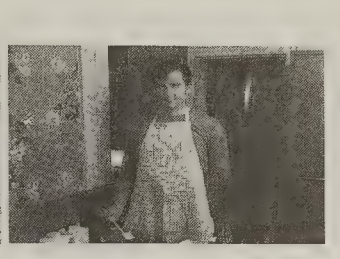
EDITORS' PICKS



1. WILL CASE (128–82, .610)

2. ANDREW RIGAS (108–80, .574)

3. ETHAN BRADY (16–12, .571)



4. ROB ERICKSON (52–49, .515)

5. SEBASTIAN SANCHEZ (50–61 .450)

Men's Basketball: Jack Daly '18 over/ under 19.5 points (his scoring average thus far this season) @ Skidmore on Friday, Dec. 8 at 6 pm.	UNDER But another triple double could be in the works.	UNDER He'll be under because he won't need to be over. A balanced effort will lead the Panthers past the Thoroughbreds.	UNDER Skidmore's hot.	OVER He's nasty. Like literally. I have to live with him.	OVER My boy Daly is gonna go over with 20 points.
Men's Hockey: Middlebury (+1.5) @ Amherst on Saturday, Dec. 9 at 3 pm	AMHERST This is a Mammoth task.	AMHERST The Mammoths will be a little too woolly for the Panthers this time.	AMHERST Nah.	MIDDLEBURY I'll take that line — and root for a win.	MIDDLEBURY Tough away game for the boys, but they'll keep it under two.

CFB New Year's Six:

Cotton Bowl: No. 8 USC vs. No. 5 Ohio St. on Friday, Dec. 29 at 8:30 pm.	USC I think the O-H-I-Oers are overrated. Plus, I doubt they'll show up after the perceived snub — be sure to know it wasn't a snub though.	USC I remember what Sam Darnold did to Penn State last year in the Rose Bowl. I fear for the Buckeyes that will be them this year.	OSU My advice to gamblers: Never bet against the Ohioans.	OSU Hoo boy, they're gonna be upset after that playoff snub...	USC Just to make it perfectly clear, I hate Baker Mayfield.
Fiesta Bowl: No. 11 Washington vs. No. 9 Penn State on Saturday, Dec. 30 at 4 pm on ESPN.	WASHINGTON See what Rob said.	PENN STATE This isn't about who we like fellas, this is about who is going to win.	PENN STATE Let's be real.	WASHINGTON Like this program.	PENN STATE
Orange Bowl: No. 6 Wisconsin vs. No. 10 Miami on Saturday, Dec. 30 at 8 pm on ESPN.	MIAMI I think this is going to be too much for Wisconsin in a virtual road game — this is going to be played in the 'Canes home stadium, even though the Orange Bowl stadium is long gone.	WISCONSIN Where has Miami been their last few games? In the loss column, that's where.	WISCONSIN Hit me baby one more time.	MIAMI Depends which Miami shows up, but I think they bring their A-game here.	MIAMI
Peach Bowl: No. 12 UCF vs. No. 7 Auburn on Monday, Jan. 1 at 12:30 pm on ESPN.	AUBURN Really want to take UCF and see them get the dub, but they have no coach with Frost to Nebraska and no defense.	UCF In three years of the playoff system, the team from the Group of Five (non-ACC, SEC, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12 teams) has gone 2–1.	AUBURN Interesting calculus, Andrew, but there's no clear trend here.	AUBURN "Buncha PTPs on this team! Prime Time Performers, baby!" —Dick Vitale, if he commentated college football.	AUBURN
Rose Bowl: No. 3 Georgia vs. No. 2 Oklahoma on Monday, Jan. 1 at 5 pm on ESPN.	BOOMER The Sooners get a few stops on defense, which will be just enough. Sooners by a TD.	GEORGIA I tend to agree with Sebastian on this one. Plus Georgia is pretty darn good.	OKLAHOMA Roses are red, Sooners are blue, my pick is right, just like Will's too.	OKLAHOMA Baker Mayfield for Heisman	GEORGIA I still hate Baker Mayfield.
Sugar Bowl: No. 4 Alabama vs. No. 1 Clemson on Monday, Jan. 1 at 8:45 pm on ESPN.	CLEMSON Bama should be here, but the Tigers are the better team.	ALABAMA Saban won't lose two in a row.	CLEMSON If you pick Alabama here, I probably don't like you.	CLEMSON Alabama is a sham.	CLEMSON
Who's crowned national champion?	CLEMSON I'll be pulling for Mayfield and the Sooners. But Clemson seems to be too much.	GEORGIA But that fool will lose two out of three!	GEORGIA Big fan of Uga.	OKLAHOMA Defense wins championships, but offense wins... this championship?	CLEMSON

Men's Hockey Team Notches One in the Win Column Against Tufts

By HEATHER BOEHM

The men's hockey team journeyed to their first away matchups of the season last weekend. The Panthers were taken out by conference rival Conn. College by a score of 5–0 on Friday, Dec 1. But, the young team finally notched a "W," coming out on top over Tufts 2–0 on Saturday, Dec. 2. This victory over the Jumbos gives Middlebury some life and provides them with a bit of momentum to work with this weekend when they hit the road again.

On Friday, the Panthers were humbled by the Camels in their first away game of the year. The Camels capsized the Panther defense throughout the first stanza, slapping the puck past the Middlebury goalie twice. The first goal, at the five minute mark, was tallied after Bryan Ackil tipped in a perfect assist from Kevin Doyle. The hosts climbed to a two score lead when Chris Jellison created his own opportunity and was able to net a clean shot past the Panther goalie.

Middlebury's offense only trailed the Camels by six shots on goal. But, the Conn. College goalie closed out a tremendous effort, rejecting all 28 of Middlebury's shots on goal, giving the hosts their first shutout of the season.

The second period of the battle sealed out the game for the Camels. They recorded three more goals to their total, while denying the Panthers any opportunity to show up on the scoreboard. The Camels' last goal was won off of a power play approaching the 20th minute of the sequence. This would cap off the final score, stopping the Panthers' bleeding at 5–0.

But, the weekend was far from over for a Middlebury team eager for a triumph. Their hopes were realized on Saturday as the team headed to Medford, skating to a 2–0 win over Tufts.

Stephen Klein '18 played a major role in the Panthers' rewarding Saturday. Klein stood his ground and claimed his ninth career shutout, refusing all 37 of the Jumbos' shots on goal.

Klein reflected on the team's first successful conquest.

"It feels great to get our first win this season," said Klein. "We had high expectations coming into the year and after a disappointing start it is really nice to have that weight lifted off our shoulders."

The Panthers got the edge early on when they netted the puck just moments into the first stanza. Vincent Gisonti '18 wasted no time closing out a rebound for his first goal of the season. After 12 minutes, Middlebury doubled its lead when Jimmy McKee '19 recorded a shorthanded goal. McKee eased past the Jumbo defense and finished off a stellar assist from Alex Heinritz '21, logging his first goal of the season.

The score held up and in a last desperate gasp as the clock wound down, Tufts pulled its goalie, Drew Hotte.

Middlebury's defense proved impenetrable as they held on tight to preserve the shutout.

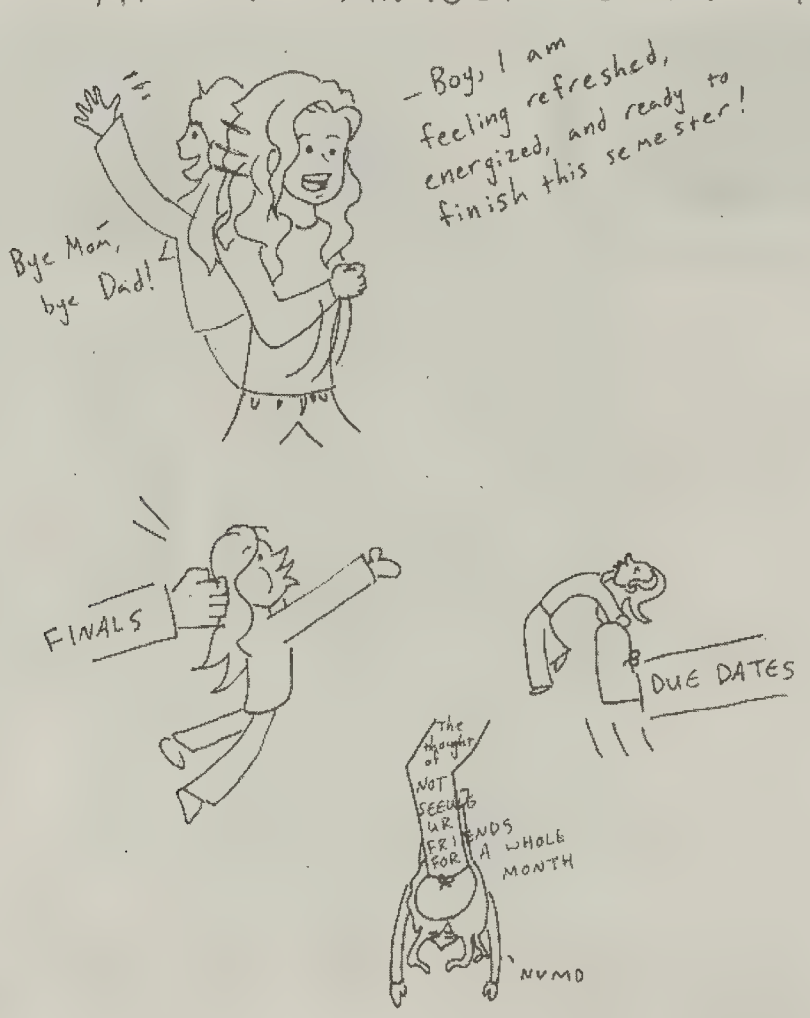
Both teams had multiple scoring opportunities in the second two periods, but neither was able to capitalize on them. This was apparent by the fact that both the Jumbos and Panthers went 0–3 on power play opportunities.

"The win definitely gives us the momentum we need to turn our season around," said Klein. "Breaking out of a losing streak is never easy and finding a way to win came at a very critical point in our season. I have a lot of confidence in all the guys and I think we can be very successful moving forward."

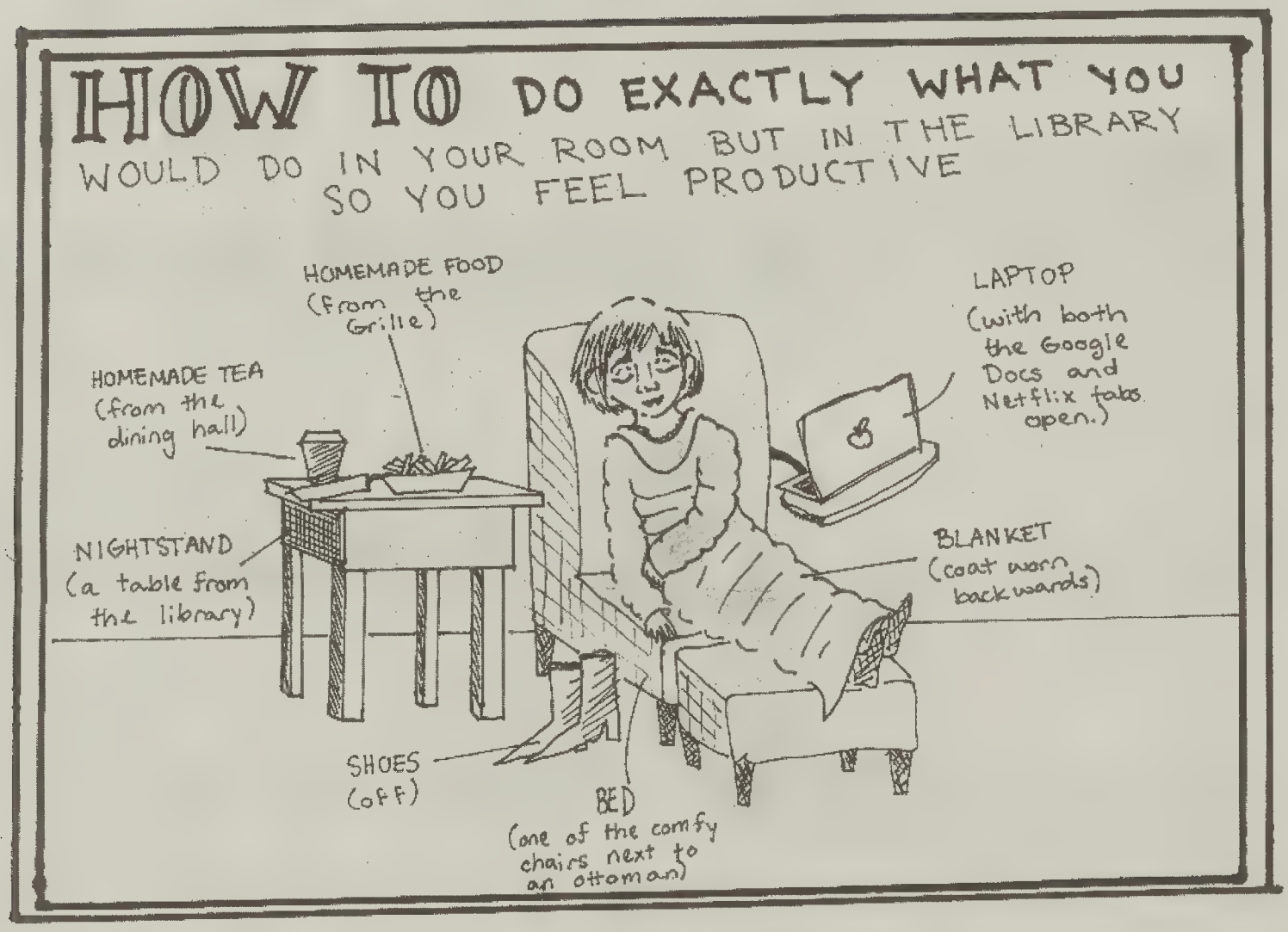
Hopefully, confidence is on their side as they venture out of Vermont once again this weekend to continue competition against conference opponents. The will face Hamilton tomorrow night and head on to Amherst's Orr Rink Saturday afternoon.

MICHAEL O'HARA

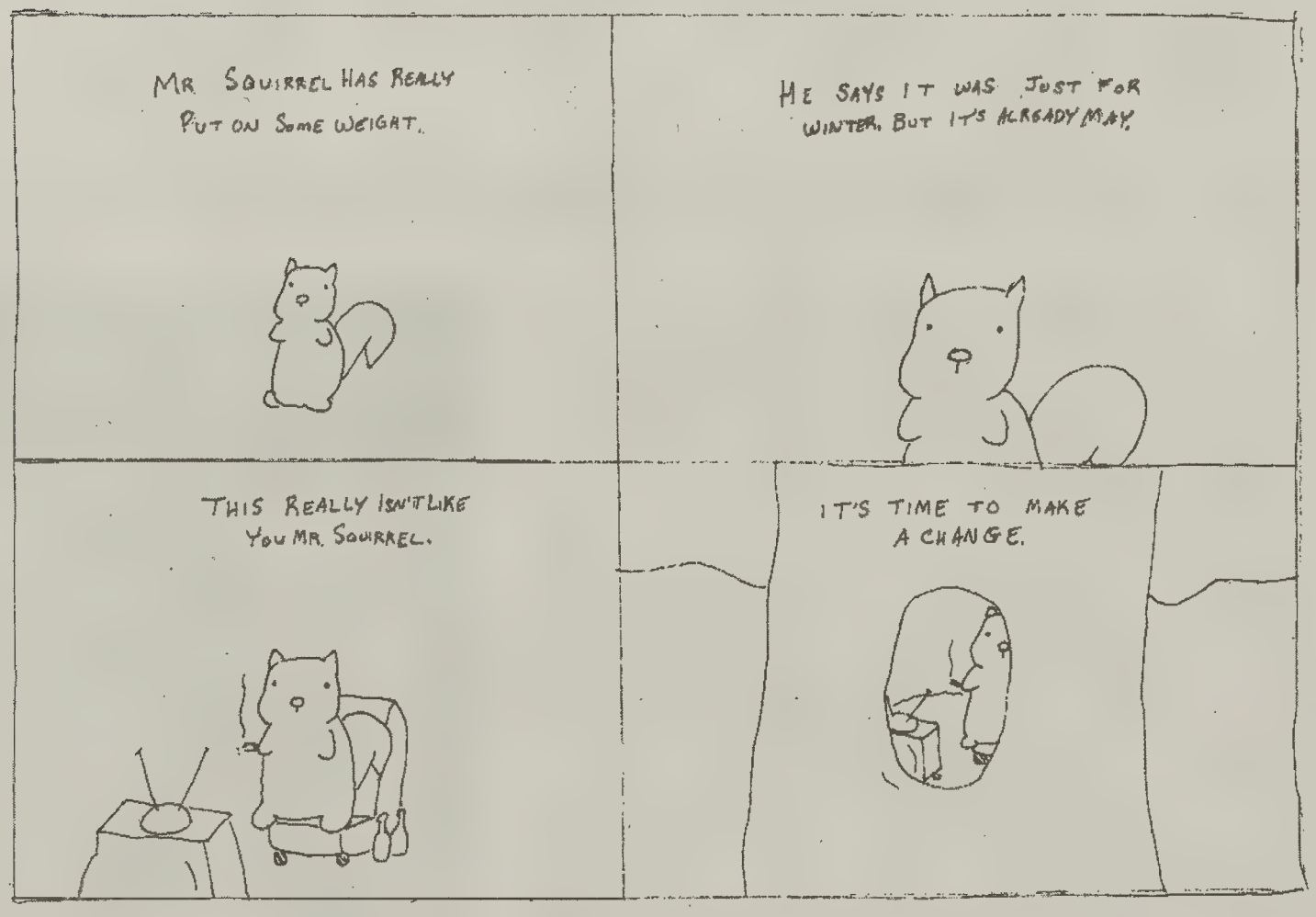
Men's hockey got a hard-earned W with a 2–0 shutout victory over Tufts last weekend.


AFTER THANKSGIVING BREAK
Bye Mom, bye Dad!
- Boy, I am feeling refreshed, energized, and ready to finish this semester!
FINALS
DUE DATES
the thought of NOT SEEING UR FRIENDS FOR A WHOLE MONTH
NVMD

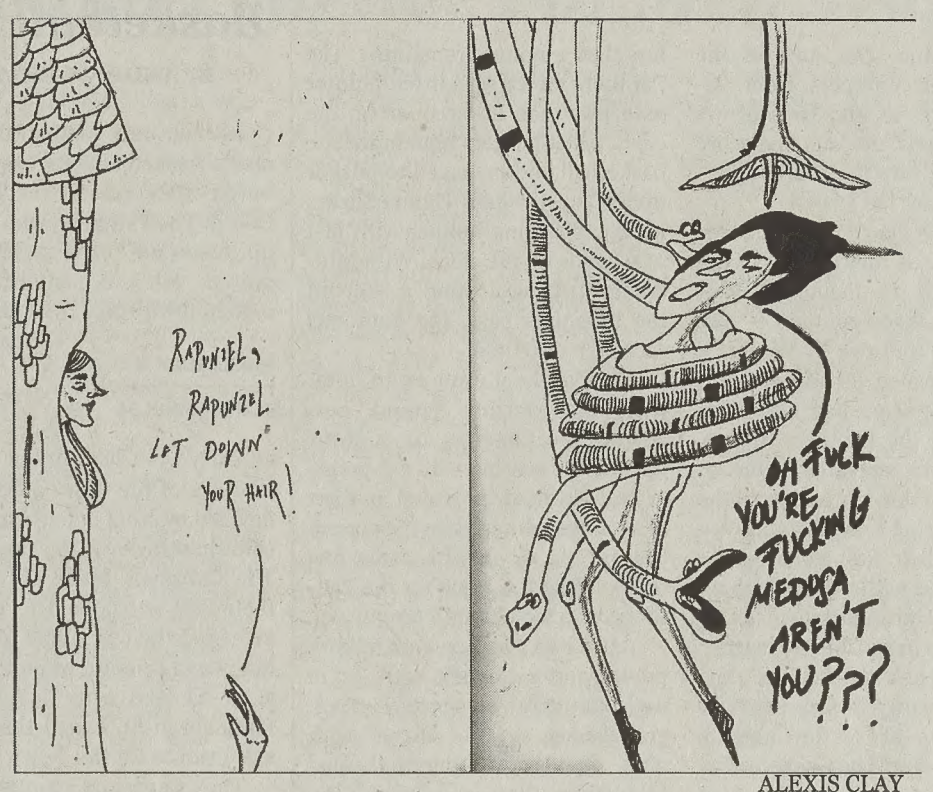
JENNY MOSS


HOW TO DO EXACTLY WHAT YOU WOULD DO IN YOUR ROOM BUT IN THE LIBRARY SO YOU FEEL PRODUCTIVE
HOMEMADE FOOD (from the Grille)
HOMEMADE TEA (from the dining hall)
LAPTOP (with both the Google Docs and Netflix tabs open.)
NIGHTSTAND (a table from the library)
BLANKET (coat worn backwards)
SHOES (OFF)
BED (one of the comfy chairs next to an ottoman)

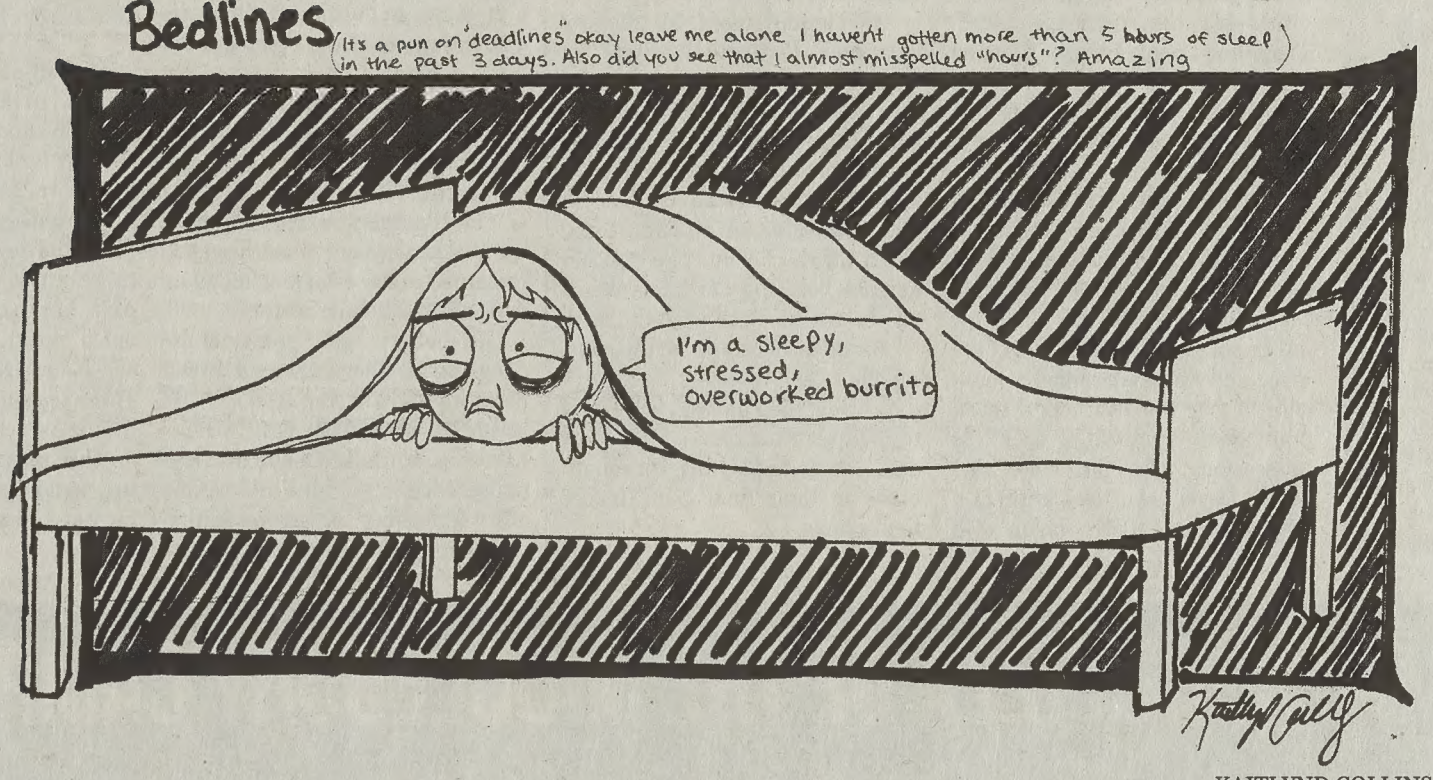
JILL STAUFFER


MR SQUIRREL HAS REALLY PUT ON SOME WEIGHT.
HE SAYS IT WAS JUST FOR WINTER. BUT IT'S ALREADY MAY.
THIS REALLY ISN'T LIKE YOU MR. SQUIRREL.
IT'S TIME TO MAKE A CHANGE.

MICHAEL FRANK



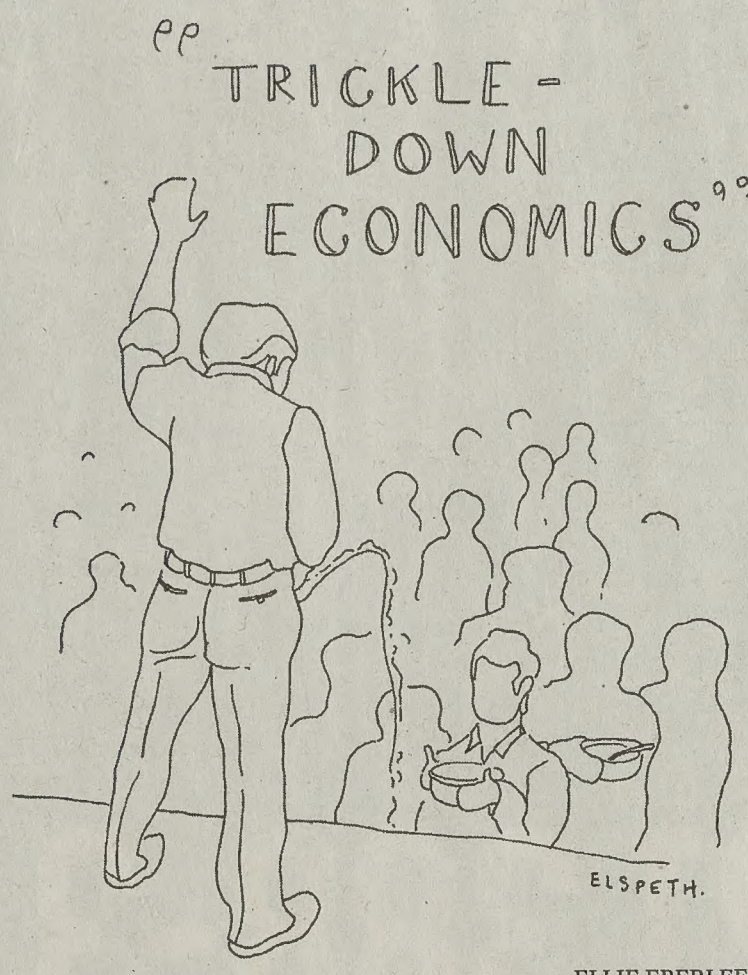
ALEXIS CLAY


Bedlines
(It's a pun on "deadlines" okay leave me alone I haven't gotten more than 5 hours of sleep in the past 3 days. Also did you see that I almost misspelled "hours"? Amazing)
I'm a sleepy, stressed, overworked burrito
Kaitlynd Collins

KAITLYND COLLINS

"THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS"

MILLIE VON PLATEN



ELLIE EBERLEE

Women's Basketball 7–0 for First Time in 16 Seasons

By IMRAN GANDA

The women's basketball team (7–0) defeated Rensselaer (5–3) on Thursday, Nov. 30, 64–54 and Colby-Sawyer (4–1) the next night in overtime by a score of 66–59. On Tuesday, Dec. 5, Middlebury beat Plattsburgh St. 60–33 to move to 7–0, its best start since the 2001-2002 season when the Panthers won their first nine games.

Thursday's night opener was a special one, as the Panthers' first home game of the season. The Engineers were firing on all cylinders in the first quarter, taking a 9–2 lead within the first five minutes. The Panthers quickly adjusted their defense and were able to find an offensive spark from Betsy Knox '20, who finished the quarter with eight points on three of three shooting.

At the start of the second quarter, it was clear that the Panthers were dictating the tempo, finding stops on the defensive end and continuously feeding the ball to Knox, who continued her scoring streak. Unselfish plays by guard Alex Huffman '19 and Sarah Kaufman '18 set Knox up to convert three consecutive layups. The Panthers ended the first half with a comfortable six point lead, 29–23, over the Engineers, while Knox finished the half with 17 points.

The halftime talk in their locker room lifted the spirits of the Engineers as they looked more tenacious on the defensive end at the beginning of the second half. The Panthers were a bit overwhelmed as they struggled to space the floor and scored only six points in the third. Rensselaer ended the quarter on a 6–0 run, gaining their first lead since the start of the first quarter. Jumpers from Sabrina Weeks '18 and free-throws by Maya Davis '20 kept the score tight. Going into the fourth quarter, Rensselaer led 36–35.

The fourth quarter was huge for the Panthers as they outscored the Engineers by 11, including three consecutive three-pointers — one by Huffman and two by Weeks. A 16–5 run ensued for Middlebury, and the Engineers had no choice but to force the Panthers to line. The Panthers converted nine of their ten free throw attempts in the fourth, securing a comfortable 64–54 win in their first home game. Knox finished with a game high 23 points and Huffman tallied all 13 of her points in the fourth quarter.

Back on the road the next day, the Panthers travelled east to New Hampshire to take on the Chargers of Colby-Sawyer. The Chargers finished the first quarter with a 7–2 run to take an 18–10 advantage. Within the first few minutes of the second, Colby-Sawyer established the game's biggest lead by either side at 13, with a 25–12 lead. Then the comeback began, spurred purely by Middlebury's offensive tenacity as the Panthers went on a 15-4 run to cut the lead to 29–27 at the halfway point.

The third quarter saw a flurry of exchanges from both sides with neither side gaining a lead larger than four points. Entering the fourth quarter with a narrow 44-42 point advantage, Davis hit a three and Kaufman nailed a jump shot to give the Panthers a seven point lead. After a few scoreless possessions with the score tied at 54, Davis gave the Panthers a two-point lead with a layup with less than a minute remaining. The Panthers forced up a three-pointer with less than 20 seconds on the clock. The Chargers rebounded the basketball and managed to push it up the court, where Tianna Sugars hit a game-tying jumper with just .9 seconds on the clock. With Middlebury unable to find a shot off the inbounds pass, the bout was scored in overtime.

The Panthers went on to dominate the overtime period, outscoring the Chargers 10–3. Knox opened the scoring with a 3-pointer and Huffman provided another from downtown later in the period. The threes, along with some free throws, iced the game for the Panthers, who took home a 66–59 win.

Davis had a career-high in both points and rebounds with 14 in each statistical category. Her aggressiveness on the boarsd with nine offensive rebounds helped Middlebury outscore Colby-Sawyer on second point chances 15-8. The eight additional rebounds over the opposition proved to be crucial in Friday's win.

On Tuesday night, Middlebury squashed Plattsburgh State at home 60–33. In the second and third quarters, the Panthers outscored the Cardinals 40–14. Davis led the way with 16 points and eight rebounds, while Emily Wander '21 and Kira Waldman '20 both scored seven off the bench. The Panther defense held the Cardinals below 22 percent shooting from the field.

Middlebury returns to the court tonight when it hosts Sage at 7 p.m. Then, the Panthers will travel to Skidmore tomorrow night, Friday, Dec. 8, to play the Thoroughbreds in their final game before final exams.

Balanced Effort Leads Men's Basketball Past Plattsburgh St.

By ANDREW RIGAS

In their only game of the week, men's basketball ran past Plattsburgh State 92–68 on Tuesday, Dec. 5. The Panthers, who climbed up to second in the national poll, moved to 5–0, entering their matchup with No. 16 Skidmore on Friday, Dec. 8.

MIDDLEBURY	91
PLATTSBURGH ST.	68

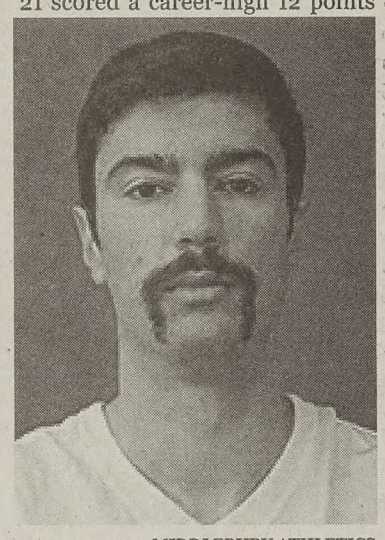
Middlebury took an early 15–4 lead in the first ten minutes of the first half on Tuesday, led by stout defense and some cold shooting by Plattsburgh State. The Cardinals made only two of their first 17 shots. The Panthers extended their first half lead to as many as 14 points when they took a 37–23 lead with 1:58 left, but Plattsburgh St. ended the half on a 7–1 run to cut the deficit to eight.

The Cardinals continued to creep closer to the Panthers out of the break, scoring the first four points to make it a four-point game. Middlebury responded with a 21–3 run to put the Cardinals in a hole they could not climb out of. After a tough first half when he made only two of his eight shots from the field, Matt Folger '20 heated up in that stretch, going on a 9–0 run of his own.

The Panthers extended their lead to as many as 27, but the game remained pretty even and ended in a 91–68 Middlebury victory.

Middlebury got going from deep and hit nine of their 18 three-point attempts in the second half, including three from Griffin Kornaker '21. Kornaker made his first appearance in the blue and white, after suffering a preseason injury and sitting out the first four games of the season.

He was one of five Panthers in double figures on Tuesday, finishing with 11 points, while Daly and Folger both scored a game-high 14. Daly added nine assists and eight rebounds, and Folger tallied his second double-double of the season with 11 rebounds. Jack Farrell '21 scored a career-high 12 points on five of six shooting, and Hilal Dahleh '19 tallied 13 points on five of seven shooting.

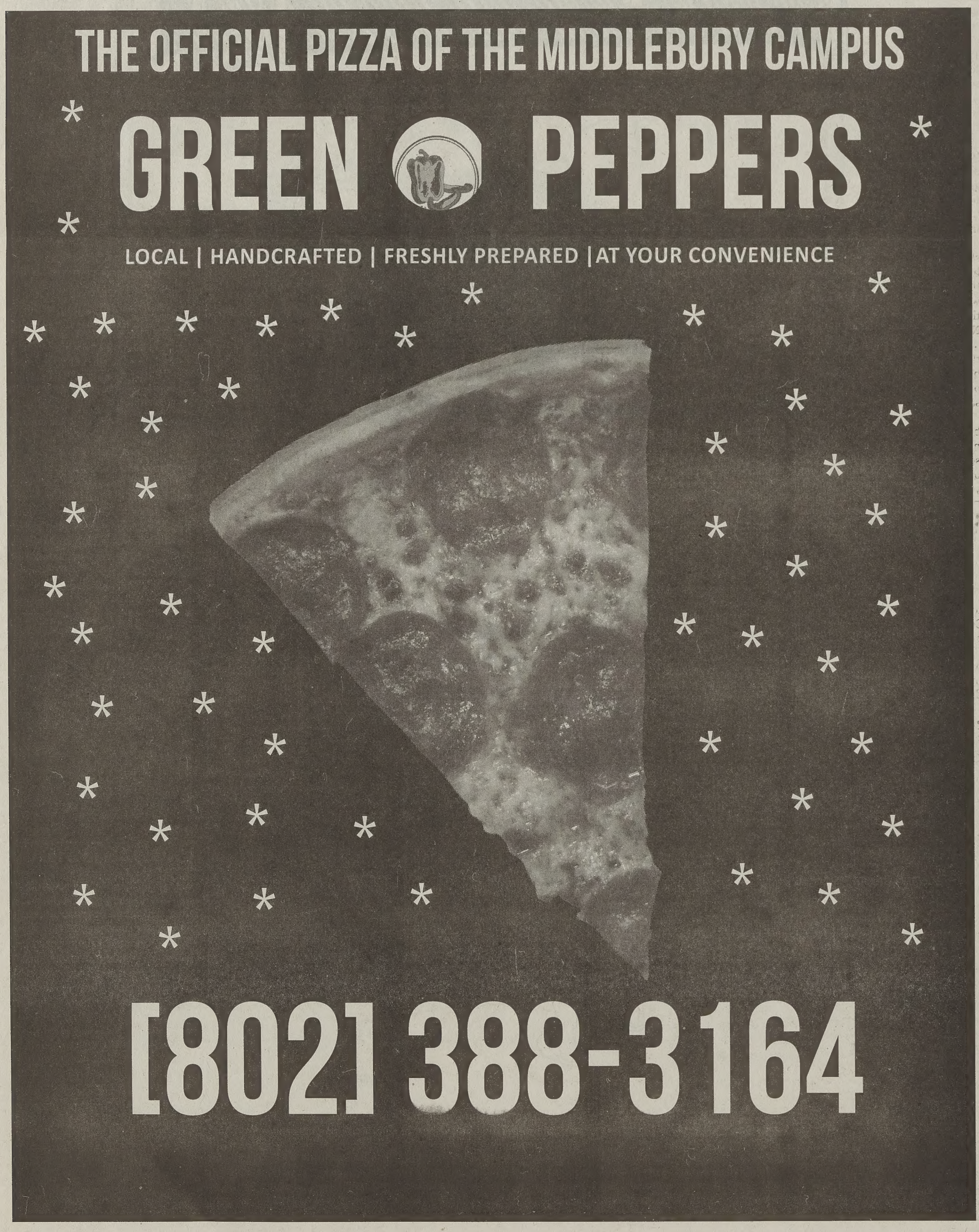


MIDDLEBURY ATHLETICS

Matt Folger '19.

Next up for the Panthers is the Skidmore game on Friday, Dec. 8 at Saratoga Springs, New York. The Thoroughbreds have proven to be a tough challenge in year's past. Last year, Middlebury eked out a 72–71 victory, but the season before, Skidmore won 82–77. Three season ago, Middlebury won by one as well, 57–56.

This season, both teams enter the matchup undefeated, Middlebury at 5–0 and Skidmore at 6–0.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Preparation and Practice Put Men's Squash Ahead

By WILL CASE

Last Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017, the men's squash team began their 2017-18 season by cleanly sweeping Hamilton 9–0 in the Little Squash Center in Clinton, New York.

While the Panthers are clearly a program on the rise, their ranking has slipped since the season officially began and the College Squash Association (CSA) released its preseason poll. Last season the Panthers finished strong and won their draw in the C bracket, which put them at 17th in the final CSA ranking and brought home the program's sixth Summers Cup in the last nine years. Nonetheless, this year the CSA put Virginia at No. 17 and spot ahead on the Panthers in the preseason poll. Having not even played a match, the Panthers were bumped down to No. 19 in the ranking the committee released on Dec. 1.

This is the lowest the Panthers have been ranked since head coach Mark Lewis took over the program prior to their epic 2015-16 season, when the Panthers rode the surging duo of David Cromwell '16 and Henry Pearson '18, top-ladder stalwart Wyatt French '17, and the stable pair of Ben Krant '17 and Will Kurth '18 at the lower half of the ladder to a thrilling victory over Bates in the Hoehn Cup.

"The team's training went well this fall and although the list of opponents is difficult they are progressing nicely and we have ambitions to break into the top 16," said Lewis.

On the court, Middlebury simply overmatched the Continentals. Jacob Ellen '20, who has solidified his position at the top spot on the ladder for the Panthers, got better as his match went on and took down Hamilton's top player, junior Colin O'Dowd 14–12, 11–7, 11–4. Last season, Ellen took down O'Dowd in straight sets, 11–5, 11–6, 11–3, but having played each other before, there was no element of surprise this time around.

"I have actually known Colin [O'Dowd] for a while, since junior squash," said Ellen. "So I know his game very well and I approached both matches the same way trying to play very quickly without making a lot of mistakes."

Ellen is still getting over a slightly banged-up knee that has bothered him through training the last few weeks, but for those watching this team it seems like this was the perfect match for the No. 1 to shake off the rust.

"I came into the first game a little bit rusty, so I almost lost it, but became much more comfortable on court as the match went along," said Ellen.

In the second spot, Will Cembalest '20 also outdid his opponent, Callum Sondhi, in straight sets 11–6, 11–5, 11–4. Rounding out the top third of the ladder was yet another Panther sophomore, Jack Kagan '20. Kagan played most of his matches last winter in the No. 5 slot, but had no trouble in his first competition as the No. 3 as the sophomore took it to Nicholas Conzelman in straight sets, winning the first two 11–4 and the decisive one 11–3.

Heading into the offseason, Kagan made it a goal to improve his pace, shot strength and technique – all of which are reasons he now finds himself in the No. 3 slot.

"I lifted a lot during the summer after taking the spring to relax and hit more casually," Kagan explains. "I switched rackets from Wilson to Technifibre and worked on some new swing mechanics while training this past summer. These were all pretty instrumental to me to come in in the fall and feel like my average pace of shot was much higher than ever before."

And the results are starting to show for Kagan and his team.

"I'm now much more comfortable hitting harder on a regular basis without worrying about making a mistake," Kagan said. "It's helping me apply more consistent pressure on my opponents and move them around and often close out points. There's still work to be done and I'm not yet consistently where I want to be but that's what practice time is for."

Coach Lewis is excited about the team's depth and says that Ellen, Cembalest and Kagan are just the people to face the tough match-to-match competition that they will face it head-on.

"Right now our biggest strength is our depth," said Lewis. "Even though Jacob Ellen, Will Cembalest and Jack Kagan are securely at the top of our ladder they will face difficult tests in nearly every match they play."

The barrage of sophomores Middlebury is throwing at the competition this season continued in the No. 4 spot last Saturday when Nick Bermingham '20 beat one of the Hamilton first-years, John Sawyers, in straight sets. Bermingham finished last season playing in the No. 9 slot for the Panthers, after having split his time between eighth (six appearances) and ninth (twelve appearances) on the ladder.

"The biggest change would have to be sophomore Nick Bermingham going from No. 9 to No. 4," said Lewis. Bermingham has managed to work his way to the upper half of the ladder even with the strong sophomore and first-year classes that Lewis has recruited.

"He has put in a lot of time on his own and with me," Lewis continued about Bermingham, "and his efforts and overall consistency have improved dramatically."

However, it was in the fifth spot where senior Henry Pearson broke up the sophomore parade and also took part in the most compelling match of the day for the Panthers.

Pearson lost in a marathon first set to Tristian Chiax 20–22 which is usually something hard to come back from.

"The first game was tough for sure," said Pearson. "I was pretty impatient, trying to put the ball away and hitting a lot of tins, and [Chiax] was definitely feeding off that. We went back and forth like that until he eventually pulled out the win with the first game," although Pearson did battle back after finding himself in an early hole.

"I was pretty frustrated with my mistakes during the match," Pearson continued, and explained that he "was also making a conscious effort to play relaxed and just enjoy the experience.

"That was hard to do, though, because Chiax definitely fed off that and played with more intensity and aggression. The match did feel like it was going on forever because we were pretty much just feeding off each other's mistakes over and over again.

Pearson took down Chiax with a pair of 11–5 victories in the second and third sets, before dropping the fourth game to set up a rubber match in which Pearson defeated Chiax 12–10, all the while having to complete a comeback to win the match.

"I didn't really change my strategy until I was down 10-7 in the fifth," Pearson said in reference to the decisive fifth set. "I felt like I really had to play smart to win the match. I just started playing straight length to the back and taking whatever opportunities he gave me as quickly as possible, hoping he would make an error first."

After a year's absence, Pearson's return gives the Panthers additional experience.

"The beginning of the season was definitely tough," Pearson said. "I was pretty out of shape. Now that I'm back in decent shape, it's mostly been a mental battle for me. I'm still working back into developing an effective and consistent competitive mindset."

Nonetheless, Pearson assured: "Super fun match overall and I enjoyed the fight!"

Thomas Wolpow '20 recorded a straight-set victory in the No. 8 slot for the Panthers which clinched the match victory for the team. The Panthers' pair of first-years who made appearances in the starting nine, Alex Merrill '21 and Wiatt Hinton '21, also took their debut matches in straight sets in the No. 6 and 7 spots. Hinton's win in the seven spot is even more impressive given that it came over Hamilton's lone senior, Jonathan Ruth, and given that it wasn't even close — 11–3 in the first two sets and then 11–2 in the final set.

Sam Giddins '18 rounded things out for the Panthers in the ninth slot as he also registered a straight set victory 11–8, 11–9, 11–6. While team captain Ryan Swope '18's match technically was in the 10th slot and did not count toward the final scoring, he put a beat down on his opponent, Jarrod Gerstein, in straight sets 11–9, 11–1, 11–5 for good measure.

Although the Panthers' dominated the Continentals, Hamilton entered Saturday ranked No. 28 in the CSA rankings so Middlebury probably won't move up in the next set of rankings the CSA releases this week. However, next up for Middlebury is a date with a No. 10 Dartmouth squad which will take place at the squash center on Saturday at 6 p.m.

This will be the first of nine matches the Panthers play this season against teams currently ranked higher than Middlebury by the CSA.

Although other programs have been at it in match play for weeks, do not let the Panthers' open November schedule fool you.

"Because we didn't play any matches in November and could thus really ramp up our practices physically, I think we're in good shape," said Kagan. "For this, everyone's excited to see where we stack up and to try to become one of the top 16 teams in the country."

Dartmouth is only the first of many challenges the Panthers will face in a quest to break into the top 16.

"We know that Dartmouth is a really tough team," said Ellen. "But our team has worked extremely hard since September and we are all playing really well and are excited for the challenge they present."

While the Panthers struggled mightily last season on the road against Dartmouth, Ellen says the team is hoping to put up a better fight this year.

"They beat us easily last year at Dartmouth and I was out because of the flu," said Ellen, whose flu also caused him to miss the Panthers' match against Williams, which they lost 5–4. "Hopefully we can scare Dartmouth a little bit more this year at home and win some matches."

"It is a challenging schedule," said Lewis. "The key matches for us are [No. 21] Williams, [No. 18] Bates, [No. 17] UVA and [No. 14] Navy."

Saturday's opportunity against Dartmouth will coincide with the women's side's match with the also 10th-ranked Dartmouth women's squad and start just after the conclusion of the women's hockey game against Castleton. A win or a close battle for the men's squash team against Dartmouth would lead to a Panther surge in the rankings.

MIDDLEBURY ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Middlebury's men's squash team with the Summers' Cup Trophy, awarded to the top finisher in the C-bracket. The goal for the Panthers this season is to break into the top 16, which would qualify them for B-bracket competition.

CSA Rankings 16–21
16. Franklin and Marshall
17. Viginia
18. Bates
19. MIDDLEBURY
20. Brown
21. Williams

WOMEN'S SQUASH RETURNS STRONG CORE, ADDS NEW FACES

By EMILY BIAN

The women's squash team is off to a strong start a pair of sweeps on Saturday, Dec. 2 against Hamilton and St. Lawrence at Hamilton in Clinton, New York. The Panthers dominated with two 9-0 victories, in which a single game was never dropped.

"The opening matches were great!" said team captain Lucy Bostwick '18. With five new faces and five returning seniors, the Panthers have the depth to push into the No. 13 to 15 range in the ranking.

Last year's team pulled out 9 wins against top rival teams including Amherst and Bates. Unfortunately, the team did not fare too well at the CSA Team Championships, losing against Dartmouth first round and University of Virginia in the consolation. However, this year the team has higher aspirations, starting off pre-season with a solid national ranking of No. 16.

The big first-year recruiting class is sure to help the team meet their goals this season. Meet the fresh five: Emily Beinkampen '21, Olivia Cappello '21, Natalie Madden '21, Virginia Schaus '21 and Maren Taylor '21. All played high level competitive squash in various clubs and teams, they are ready to step up and compete at the collegiate level.

Not to mention all three Panthers that qualified for the CSA Individual Championships last season are returning to compete: Alexa Comai '19 and Beatrijs Kuijpers '19 are currently abroad, but Anne Glassie '20 was playing in the No. 2 slot on the ladder last weekend.

With the win over Hamilton, the Panthers continued their streak of dominance over the Continentals, defeating them for the fourth consecutive time.

Madden began the sweep with her first collegiate win at line three when her opponent, Caitlin Stern, was retired after Madden won the first game 11-2. Additional first victories of their college careers came from Beinkampen at No. 4 (11-4, 11-8, 11-2) and Schaus at No 5 (11-6, 11-4, 11-7).

"It is so nice being able to compete with a team," said Madden, who like many first-year collegiate squash players are unaccustomed to having the backing of teammates when they are at the junior levels. "When I got nervous, the cheers reminded me that I was playing for Middlebury, not just myself, which helped me compete harder."

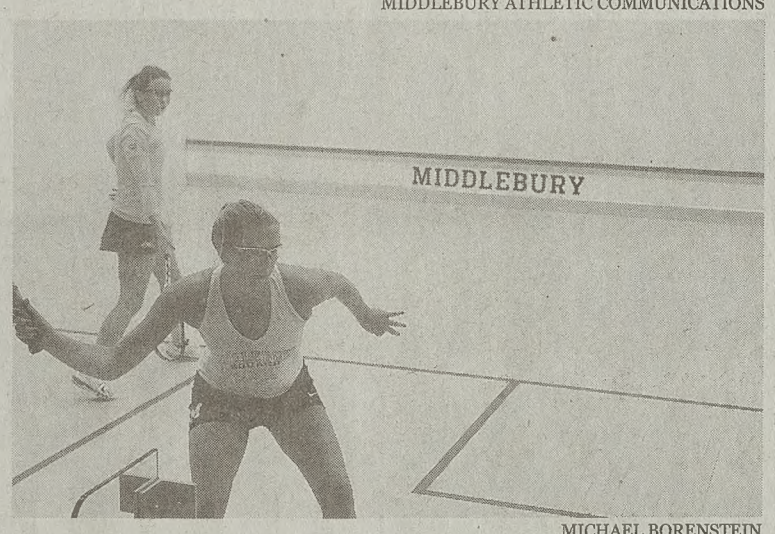
At the top of the ladder senior mainstay Lucy Bostwick '18 made the score 7-0 with tallies of 11-4, 11-5, 11-6 against Rafiatou Ouro-Aguy and Anne Glassie '20 captured a strong win (11-5, 11-2, 11-8) against Alex M. Infante.

Next up against St. Lawrence, Lily Bogle '18 cruised by with scores of 11-3, 11-2, 11-4 against Alexandra Brazo at No. 8. In the middle of the ladder, Mira Chugh '18 made the score 4-0 with another great win (11-0, 11-4, 11-4) against Cindy Yao, while Caroline Jarhling '18 swept Katie Walsh (11-1, 11-4, 11-4) at the bottom of the ladder. Keeping up the momentum, Natasha Lowitt '20 defeated Alexandra Limas at No. 7 (11-5, 11-5, 11-3).

"It was so fun to see all of our hard work in practice translate into our matches and to compete against other players besides ourselves," said Bostwick, the team captain. "Traveling all together for the first time is also such a great bonding experience and is really exciting for the first-years because they get a taste of what J-term will be like. I was really proud of everyone's hard-work, focus, and sportsmanship; it made me excited for the rest of the season."

The squash team will return to action at their first home game this Saturday, Dec. 9, at 6 p.m. against Dartmouth at the squash courts.

MIDDLEBURY ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS



MICHAEL BORENSTEIN

Lucy Bostwick '18, the No. 1 on the ladder and team captain for Middlebury women's squash (above), and Lily Bogle '18 (below) were among the highlights in an opening weekend full of them for the Panthers.

SCOREBOARD

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

SATURDAY
Castleton at Middlebury, 3 p.m.

NESCAC

School	Record Conf.	Overall
HAMILTON	4–0–0	4–2–0
CONN. COLLEGE	3–1–0	4–1–0
MIDDLEBURY	3–1–0	3–3–0
BOWDOIN	1–0–1	3–0–1
AMHERST	2–2–0	4–2–0
WESLEYAN	0–0–2	2–3–2
WILLIAMS	0–2–2	2–2–0
COLBY	0–3–1	1–4–1
TRINITY	0–4–0	2–4–0

MEN'S HOCKEY

FRIDAY
Middlebury at Hamilton, 7 p.m.
SATURDAY
Middlebury at Amherst, 3 p.m.

NESCAC

School	Record Conf.	Overall
WILLIAMS	4–0–0	5–0–0
TRINITY	3–0–1	6–0–1
COLBY	3–1–0	4–2–0
CONN. COLLEGE	2–2–0	2–2–0
WESLEYAN	1–1–2	2–1–3
AMHERST	0–0–3	2–1–3
BOWDOIN	1–3–0	2–5–0
MIDDLEBURY	1–3–0	1–5–0
HAMILTON	0–2–1	3–2–1
TUFTS	0–3–1	1–5–1

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

THURSDAY
Sage at Middlebury, 7 p.m.
FRIDAY
Middlebury at Skidmore, 8 p.m.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

FRIDAY
Middlebury at Skidmore, 6 p.m.

WOMEN'S SQUASH

SATURDAY
Dartmouth at Middlebury, 6 p.m.

MEN'S SQUASH

SATURDAY
Dartmouth at Middlebury, 6 p.m.

SWIMMING & DIVING

SATURDAY
Springfield at Middlebury, 1 p.m.

This Semester in Photos

With the semester coming to an end and a very successful fall sports season officially in the books, the sports eds thought it would only be approapriate to commemorate the sweeping success of the athletic's program so far this year with some "best of" photos.

Top moments included the field hockey team's third national title the week before Thanksgiving — to go along with a Nescac title they won the first Sunday in November (see players celebrating with trophy below). Directly to the right photographer Emma Stapleton '20 captured members of the men's soccer team celebrating with past players after a victory in retiring coach David Saward's last home Nescac regular season game with the program. And who could forget the return of Quiddich to Battell Beach in October (below left, second from bottom)?

EMMA STAPLETON

MIDDLEBURY ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

ANNA LUECK

EMMA STAPLETON

COURTESY OF JEFF PATTERSON

EMMA STAPLETON